

PLO: No self-rule deal before recognition

AMMAN (Petra) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will not sign a self-rule deal with Israel before mutual recognition, a PLO official who is meeting Israelis in secret talks told Reuters. "There will not be a signing of the (interim self-rule deal) before the official recognition of the PLO which will sign it in the name of the Palestinian people," Hassan Asfour said. "Negotiations are continuing about the mutual recognition to solve the sensitive issues and reach an official normalisation," he added. Mr. Asfour is an assistant to Mahmoud Abbas, the PLO Executive Committee member who directed the secret negotiations in Norway with Israeli officials which forged agreement on the interim self-rule deal. It was the first time Mr. Asfour had acknowledged publicly that he was secretly meeting the Israelis. "The PLO will sign the agreement on the same footing as the signatory parties and at the same level and representation," he said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times جريدة سياسية مستقلة ناشرها مجلس الأردن للأنباء

Volume 17 Number 5400

AMMAN SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1993, RAMADAN 17, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

'Despite reservations, we endorse Gaza-Jericho plan'

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has endorsed the Palestinian-Israeli accord on Gaza and Jericho although he expressed reservations about it and criticised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) failure to consult on it properly with Jordan.

"We are not against the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and we support the Palestinian decision and I might go further and praise the Palestinian courage in taking this decision. I bless what serves the Palestinian interests and what the Palestinians agree on, and I believe this is not just our position in Jordan but also the position of our Arab brethren, too. God bless them," the King said in an interview with Lebanese journalist Ghassan Twaini.

The King, however, said he was not informed of the details of the agreement. He said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat informed him before he left for the United States in June that contacts were underway between the PLO and the Israeli government and the "issue of Gaza was on the table."

King Hussein said that during his latest visit to Jordan on Aug. 24, Mr. Arafat told him that secret meetings have taken place between the PLO and Israel and that the option of Gaza and Jericho was being discussed. Mr. Arafat also said that discussions on the final solutions were also taking place, the King said in the interview which was broadcast on Jordan Television Thursday.

But "we were not in the picture or aware of the details," the King said.

His Majesty criticised the PLO for not consulting with Jordan, especially that Jordan provided an umbrella for the Palestinians to participate in the Arab-Israeli peace talks through the joint delegation.

"During a meeting with (Mr.) Arafat and members of the delegation and a number of our brothers, the discussion was about the necessity of coordination and that it was time to decide whether there was confidence or not, or if there was an interest or

not in coordinating in all dimensions and all issues," the King said.

King Hussein cited as reservations about the agreement the lack of clarity about the final status of the occupied territories and the unavailability of guarantees about the status of Jerusalem and that Israel will not continue to change the realities of the ground.

The King also voiced reservations about the situation in Gaza, saying that he told Mr. Arafat when he first mentioned the subject to him that he was worried about the possibility of taking control of Gaza at this point.

The King said he referred to the explosive situation in Gaza which could spill over to other parts of the occupied territories but Mr. Arafat said the PLO government had altered Jerusalem's geography.

"Israel speaks of a Jerusalem to which it has already annexed a fifth of the West Bank while we speak of a Jerusalem that we knew before the catastrophe of 1967."

He said it was premature to envisage a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

King Hussein said the Israeli

King said that the Arabs must overcome their differences and prepare for the future.

He warned there would be no peace if only one party controls Jerusalem. "The rights of the Christians and Muslims must be preserved."

King Hussein said the Israeli government had altered Jerusalem's geography.

"Israel speaks of a Jerusalem to which it has already annexed a fifth of the West Bank while we speak of a Jerusalem that we knew before the catastrophe of 1967."

He said it was premature to envisage a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

Jordan signals completion of disengagement process with Palestinians, but keeps door open for different kind of future relationship

By Lamia K. Al-Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein has signalled the start of a new era in Jordanian-Palestinian relations by strongly indicating that the historic Israeli-Palestinian accord has in effect completed the process of Jordan's disengagement from Palestinian affairs which formally started in 1974 when the Arab states recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In a television interview with prominent Lebanese journalist Ghassan Twaini, which was broadcast Thursday night, King Hussein appeared to draw a painful line between what the Palestinians, represented by the PLO, consider to be in their interests and Jordanian national interests in the light of the Israeli-Palestinian accord on autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

For while the King said that Jordan did not oppose the accord and in fact supported the Palestinian decision and to reach the agreement, he

emphasised that Jordan will not accept any agreement or provisions to be imposed on it — a clear reference to the articles involving Jordan in the Israeli-Palestinian accord.

King Hussein's statement indicated that he was reluctantly accepting the accord — being what the Palestinians wanted — as part of a major decision to separate Jordan from negotiations on the future of the Palestinian people. Such decision will probably entail practical steps to realise this withdrawal including the separation of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and other practical steps to protect Jordan from any potential negative repercussions of the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian accord.

The King's decision, which does not seem to have crystallised fully yet, judging by the interview, is motivated by four factors:

— Jordan's concern about its interests and rejection of any agreement and provisions in any accord imposed on it by any party.

— What is viewed by Jordan as conceding to the PLO, will,

as manifested in its policies and failure to closely coordinate with Jordan, to assert its independence.

— The King's strong reservations about any deal based on the concept of an interim phase that leaves the future of the Israeli-occupied territories and the Palestinian people ambiguous.

— The King's resentment of PLO acceptance to postpone the discussion over the two sensitive issues of Jerusalem and the Israeli settlements, which he fears could compromise the status of the Holy City and jeopardise the final outcome of the negotiations.

NEWS ANALYSIS

King Hussein, however, kept the door open for considering a different and closer Jordanian-Palestinian relationship — including confederation — once Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories are free to express their will.

But till that day, and in the immediate future, the Monarch implied that Jordan

(Continued on page 5)

Arafat battles for Fateh support for self-rule deal

Combined agency despatches

TUNIS — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, on the brink of a deal with Israel which could be the linchpin of a general Middle East peace settlement, battled Friday for agreement in his own guerrilla movement, Fateh.

Mr. Arafat appeared set to win the approval of Fateh leaders despite widespread anger at his secret bargaining behind their backs.

The Central Committee of Fateh, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) backbone, was meeting for a second day behind closed doors and officials said a small minority of its 18 members remained opposed to the plan that would give Palestinians self-rule in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jenicho.

Many members castigated Mr. Arafat for jumping over their heads to reach agreement with the Israelis, but a few argued against the actual contents of the accord, PLO officials said. That indicated the PLO leader eventually would get the backing he needs to continue with the peace process.

it could not win support from a majority of Palestinians.

PLO officials acknowledged that the movement has difficulty meeting Israel's demand for formal retraction of a 25-year-old declaration of principles which denies the Jewish state's right to exist.

But the sudden denunciation of the long Arab-Israeli conflict seemed still on track.

Yasser Arafat-Rabb, an Arafat ally on the PLO Executive Committee, predicted that Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, the other Arab participants in U.S.-sponsored peace talks, would all sign accords with Israel at the same time as the Palestinians.

"I think they will sign together at the same time, because there is important progress on the Syrian track, the accord with Jordan is ready, and that leaves Lebanon, which also could be ready," he told Reuters in Tunis.

Mr. Arafat's priorities were clear. He started his sales job for the accord with leaders of Fateh, which has always been the mainstream of the PLO and his personal power base.

(Continued on page 10)

Israel officials have said the accord could be signed within days. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday the deal could be a catalyst for other talks with Syria, Jordan and Lebanon (see separate story).

PLO officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the heaviest criticism of Mr. Arafat in the Fateh meetings came from central committee member Abbas Zaki.

He objected to the deal for ignoring key issues such as the status of Jerusalem and the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

Mr. Zaki also blasted Mr. Arafat for conducting the talks in secret and complained that Palestinian leaders were embarrassed to find out about the deal through the press, without being informed by Mr. Arafat before hand.

"Such an issue cannot be cooked up quickly, and we should not approve it easily," Mr. Zaki told the Associated Press.

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon called Mr. Arafat, calling him "pimp" and "traitor," while hardline Nayef Hawatmeh predicted the deal would fail because

Jordan takes another look at Israeli-Palestinian agreement

Majali sees no direct threat from its implementation

By Ayman Al-Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — When news about an imminent agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel over the Gaza-Jericho first option first surfaced, Jordanian officials' initial reaction was one of quiet and unhappy unease not only over the PLO's failure to consult with Jordan on the plan but also over the implications of the accord on the Kingdom's national security.

The King called for an Arab summit. "We tell every Arab brother that the fate of the (Arab) Nation is in danger, that this stage is dangerous and requires an Arab meeting," he said.

The King said that the Arabs must overcome their differences and prepare for the future.

He warned there would be no peace if only one party controls Jerusalem. "The rights of the Christians and Muslims must be preserved."

King Hussein said the Israeli government had altered Jerusalem's geography.

"Israel speaks of a Jerusalem to which it has already annexed a fifth of the West Bank while we speak of a Jerusalem that we knew before the catastrophe of 1967."

He said it was premature to envisage a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

to have undergone some transformation.

Initial reports said that Jordan's reservations about the accord were predicted on security concerns: Mainly a fear of either a forced or voluntary exodus into Jordan from the West Bank and Gaza.

Agence France Presse (AFP) Monday quoted an unnamed but "high-ranking official" as saying that Jordan fears the agreement "could lead to a flood of Palestinian population" into Jordan.

But after His Majesty King Hussein endorsed the accord in an interview with Lebanese journalist Ghassan Twaini, Prime Minister Abd

Salam Al Majali and other officials started playing down this fear, saying that Jordan can effectively guard against such a possibility.

"The Palestinian Israeli-agreement would not hurt Jordan. On the contrary, it will provide an opportunity for Palestinian refugees since 1967 (to return to the occupied territories)," Dr. Majali told AFP in an interview on Thursday.

"We will not hesitate to close down the bridges (linking Jordan with the occupied territories) to prevent a Palestinian exodus into Jordan (should that ever happen)," Dr. Majali was quoted as saying.

Dr. Majali also said he did

not believe the Palestinian leadership intends to allow a mass departure of Palestinians from the occupied territories because such a development "would hurt the (Palestinians) as much as it would Jordan."

If there is a mass influx of Palestinians into Jordan, "we will simply close the bridges and not allow entry to any one," another senior official told the Jordan Times Friday. "And Jordan will not be blamed for such action."

A well-placed analyst said Jordan, which severed administrative and legal ties with the West Bank in 1988,

(Continued on page 10)

Syria reports surprising progress in peace talks

Damascus praises Israeli seriousness

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria Friday

praised Israeli seriousness in the U.S.-brokered Middle East peace talks and held out the prospect of a firm, solid, real, honourable, just and comprehensive peace agreement.

"There have been no negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians this week," said the second-ranking Palestinian negotiator, Saeb Erakat.

"The Palestinian delegation no longer has a role to play. We haven't received any instructions and all we do is go to the State Department and leave again," he said.

The Palestinian delegation had been taken aback by the accord that provides for mutual Israeli-PLO recognition and limited Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

They also found themselves upstaged by the PLO leadership, which would usurp all their authority once recognised.

(Continued on page 3)

Peres: PLO accord advances Syria track

Combined agency despatches

PARIS — Israel's agreement with the Palestinians on self-rule could advance negotiations with the Syrians, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said here on Friday.

"With the Syrians, there has to be a change in realities, not just atmosphere, I think that the accord with the Palestinians could push forward negotiations a lot," Mr. Peres said after a working breakfast with his French counterpart Alain Juppe.

But asked if Mr. Arafat and his associates could then establish themselves in Jenicho, Mr. Peres said: "If there is (mutual) recognition, yes. Otherwise, no."

Asked if last month's initialising of the self-rule accords between Israeli and PLO officials in Oslo did not in itself represent Israeli recognition of the PLO, Mr. Peres replied:

"Yes and no. There is a difference between formal recognition and the current situation."

Mr. Juppe also met here Friday with United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali, who said afterwards that he was "at the disposition of the Israelis and the Palestinians if they need an international or a United Nations presence, either Gaza or Jenicho."

In his talks with Mr. Peres, Mr. Juppe paid tribute to the Israeli foreign minister's "clear thinking and courage," saying "it is in all our interests that what is going on in the Middle East should succeed."

"France supports the action of the Israeli government, approves the courage of the accord and hopes that negotiations underway towards mutual recognition of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation will come to fruition as soon as possible."

Mr. Peres said Israel opposed a visit to occupied areas by PLO

The army said it was checking both reports.

The march began after Friday prayers at a mosque in the Gaza town of Beit Lahia, about one kilometre from Jenicho.

Islamic Jihad, which organised the protest, opposes any talks with Israel and was a target of Israel's December expulsion of 415 activists to South Lebanon.

The protesters held up Palestinian flags and chanted slogans against any deal between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Demonstrators chanted:

"Arafat, tell Rabin that self-rule will not be."

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas said on Friday it killed an Israeli soldier in the West Bank on Thursday as part of a campaign to wreck any

(Continued on page 5)

The Embassy of the state of Qatar to Jordan

Announces that the celebration, which is going to be held at the Forte Grand Hotel on Sat. 4 Sept 1993, on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the Qatari National Day, will be at 6.00 o'clock, instead of 7.00, to 9.00

The embassy thanks all those who will be attending.

Middle East News

U.S. trying to raise financing for Palestinian self-rule

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Clinton administration is trying to help line up the hundreds of millions of dollars it will take to start up Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza. Most of it is to come from the Mideast, Europe and Japan.

An international aid package, as well as the prospect of millions more down the road, was an essential sweetener for convincing the financially strapped Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to accept the accord with Israel on self-government, said experts and officials familiar with the Mideast negotiations.

The money is also viewed as vital to the success of the five-year interim self-government plan, worked out in secret Israeli-PLO talks, which it is hoped will serve as a catalyst for Mideast peace.

"If the Palestinians see no economic benefit from this agreement, if their lives continue to be miserable and desperate, then how can this succeed?" asked one U.S. official close to the 22-month Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Before the Israel-PLO agreement was reached Aug. 20, the United States had promised the Palestinians a package on the order of \$180 million a year for an indefinite period to run an interim self-government once it was established, said a source familiar with the U.S. proposal, who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

But with an agreement actually reached — albeit without direct U.S. involvement — work is being stepped up to come up with exact figures and get donations from other countries.

"The funds, I think, will come primarily from others," said Secretary of State Warren Christopher in an interview Thursday with National Public Radio. "The United States, as usual, will do its part, and I think we will try to help facilitate the contributions," he added.

The United States is willing to contribute up to \$50 million in discretionary funds — money it would not need to get from Congress, said one official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Earlier this year, the United States sought promises of help from Japan, the European Community and the Gulf states. All had promised to do so in principle, and U.S. officials are now reestablishing contact to lock in specifics.

The Scandinavian countries have pledged some \$150 million for the so-called early empowerment fund, and the Europeans and Japanese are said to be thinking of raising about \$100 million

together.

The Gulf countries including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — which shut off assistance to the Palestinians to punish them for the PLO's support of Iraq in the Gulf war — have promised some \$100 million for a Palestinian government, said James Zogby, executive director of the Arab American Institute.

And Israel has promised to transfer tax money it collects annually from the Palestinians to the self-government authority once it's established. That figure is estimated at \$380 million annually, said Leonard Housman, director of Harvard University's Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East.

In addition to money for the Palestinian government, the PLO is asking for emergency money to cover debts accrued by hospitals, universities and other institutions in the occupied territories since the Gulf money was cut off in war, Mr. Housman said.

That figure, said Mr. Zogby, is estimated at \$120 million.

Mr. Housman, who met with Mr. Arafat in Tunis last Friday, said that in addition to the aid for the Palestinian self-government, studies have shown that an infusion of some \$500 million to \$700 million annually would be needed to get the Palestinian economy moving once it emerges from Israel's control.

The PLO has been talking to the World Bank, as well as the European Community, about money for such future development and infrastructure projects. Mr. Zogby said discussions were also underway to establish a private West Bank development bank with money from wealthy Palestinian expatriates.

Japan ready with aid

Japan is ready to provide large-scale aid to Palestinians in the event of a formal agreement between Palestinians and Israel, the conservative daily Sankei said Friday.

The government plans to set out its views on this issue during talks next Thursday and Friday with senior foreign ministry officials of the two countries in Tokyo, said the paper in its unsourced report.

On Thursday a Japanese Foreign Ministry official indicated that Tokyo was studying possible financial aid to an autonomous Palestinian authority which could emerge from the agreement between Israel and the PLO.

An Israeli diplomat confirmed Friday in Tokyo that Israel had informally raised the issue with Japanese authorities on Thurs-

day: Japan has already earmarked \$12 million in its 1993 budget (April 93-March 94) for United Nations funds for Palestinian refugees from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and has committed aid worth \$3 million a year to a Japanese-Palestinian development fund through the U.N.'s development programme.

EC: Funds scarce

While the European Community (EC) has pledged support for plans to extend autonomy to Palestinians in the Middle East, the money to back the promises could be hard to find, EC officials warned Friday.

One official, speaking on condition that he not be identified, said the European Commission, through which much European aid is channelled, had little leeway to increase spending in the Middle East.

In addition to money for the Palestinian government, the PLO is asking for emergency money to cover debts accrued by hospitals, universities and other institutions in the occupied territories since the Gulf money was cut off in war, Mr. Housman said.

That figure, said Mr. Zogby, is estimated at \$120 million.

Mr. Housman, who met with Mr. Arafat in Tunis last Friday, said that in addition to the aid for the Palestinian self-government, studies have shown that an infusion of some \$500 million to \$700 million annually would be needed to get the Palestinian economy moving once it emerges from Israel's control.

The PLO has been talking to the World Bank, as well as the European Community, about money for such future development and infrastructure projects. Mr. Zogby said discussions were also underway to establish a private West Bank development bank with money from wealthy Palestinian expatriates.

Japan ready with aid

Japan is ready to provide large-scale aid to Palestinians in the event of a formal agreement between Palestinians and Israel, the conservative daily Sankei said Friday.

The government plans to set out its views on this issue during talks next Thursday and Friday with senior foreign ministry officials of the two countries in Tokyo, said the paper in its unsourced report.

On Thursday a Japanese Foreign Ministry official indicated that Tokyo was studying possible financial aid to an autonomous Palestinian authority which could emerge from the agreement between Israel and the PLO.

An Israeli diplomat confirmed Friday in Tokyo that Israel had informally raised the issue with Japanese authorities on Thurs-

"We can always find the money for emergency aid of five or six million dollars. It will be impossible for us to go much further unless EC governments give us the money," the EC official said.

But another official said EC capital had given a cool reception to Washington's so-called Marshall plan for massive international assistance to underpin the Palestinian self-government project.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said during a visit to EC headquarters on Thursday that the United States and the European Community had promised to make the project "a political and economic success."

The Israeli-Palestinian accord was warmly welcomed by the EC this week. European Commission President Jacques Delors said during Mr. Peres' visit: "When the actors (in the Middle East) have need of us, they will find us."

But the commission has given little indication that it is ready to go beyond cooperation and aid plans already under way or about to be finalised, or such projects as training the Palestinians for self-government.

Next Wednesday the EC's executive is due to release details of an updated cooperation accord with Israel, in response to Israeli demands for fairer access to the community market than contained in an existing 1975 accord.

Sheikh Abdullah said he had



Irqi children in Amara, southern Iraq, in the "no-fly" zone (AFP photo).

Iran-backed rebels step up raids in southern Iraq

HAYDARIYA (R) — Shi'ite dissidents, trained and armed by Iran, have recently escalated attacks on targets in southern Iraq, the inhabitants of this reed village told foreign reporters on Thursday.

"Infiltration from the Iranian side goes on. Three days ago they (rebels) attacked Galat Saleh with rocket-propelled grenades," Sheikh Mohammad Qassim Abdullah said.

"The army and tribesmen chased them off," he added.

Galat Saleh is about 60 kilometres from the Iranian border close to the Baghdad-Basra highway and 430 kilometres south of Baghdad.

Haydariya, where Sheikh Abdullah had set up his mudhif (guest house), is close to the extensive Huweizah marshes straddling the border into Iran.

The Iran-backed exiled Shi'ite opposition said last month thousands of people from the southern marshes fled to Iran in the face of an Iraqi offensive and attempts to drain the area.

But the marsh Arabs of this village said the water this year was higher than last year.

Sheikh Abdullah gathered his men who formed a huge circle, dancing the hussa (war dance) once reporters, escorted by Iraqi officials, got off their cars.

Barefoot children and women hoisted sticks and clubs in the air and waved pictures of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"They need the marsh water for food and to escape the scorching heat, but we cannot give them there as long as they want," Hussein said.

They recognised and their sources pointed out.

The search for Gen. Aeeded began after 24 Pakistani peacekeepers were killed June 5 in a series of ambushes in south Mogadishu, the part of the city controlled by Gen. Aeeded.

A week later, U.N. forces began their own night air and ground assaults on Gen. Aeeded's weapons cache. On June 17, Aeeded announced what was already clear, that Gen. Aeeded was a wanted man, and the United Nations put a \$25,000 bounty on his head.

Others are not so sure. "Aeeded appears to leave little trace of a signature and is a challenge even with our technology," said Major David Stockwell, a spokesman for the military side of the U.N. operation.

In retaliation, a Somali mob set upon reporters, photographers and television news crews with knives, rocks and guns, killing an Associated Press photographer and three Reuters employees.

The assaults drove Gen. Aeeded underground and brought

the search quickly shifted from low gear into high.

President Bill Clinton autho-

rised the deployment of 400 elite Rangers to Somalia to augment the army's rapid reaction force of 1,150 soldiers already on hand.

The Americans assist a U.N. force of 25,000 from 28 countries including 4,000 U.S. logistics personnel, but remain under U.S. command.

Admiral Howe and the U.N. military argued otherwise. They could continue their effort to capture Gen. Aeeded, they said, without jeopardising their mission to rebuild a country shattered by three years of civil war, famine and anarchy. More than 350,000 people died in 1992 alone before U.S. troops were dispatched in December; the United Nations assumed control in May.

The search for Gen. Aeeded went on, but with a much lower profile. That changed Aug. 8, when a remotely detonated mine blew up a U.S. military vehicle and killed four Americans. The attack was blamed on Gen. Aeeded.

"Some people support Aeeded, others are indifferent," Maj. Stockwell said. "Those who live in the large middle ground will probably not dispute his presence in their areas."

It is human intelligence that the U.N. military effort appears most lacking. There has been no rush of Somalis claiming the \$25,000 reward.

For his sentencing hearing last year, his lawyers claimed Drogoul was being made a scapegoat for foreign-policy failures of then President Bush. Congressional critics, led by House Banking Committee chairman Henry Gonzalez, made similar charges last year as Mr. Bush was seeking re-election.

Mr. Drogoul was indicted in 1991, about 1 1/2 years after the BNL office in Atlanta was raided by the FBI.

He was accused, among other things, of using an Agriculture Department programme designed to promote farm exports to get the money to Iraq. At the time, most banks were refusing to loan money to Iraq because of its poor credit record.

Five BNL-Atlanta co-workers had pleaded guilty and were prepared to testify against Mr. Drogoul, prosecutors said. Last month, U.S. District Judge Marvin Shoob sentenced them to probation, calling them bit players in the scheme.

Mr. Drogoul has originally indicted in 1991 on 347 counts, but prosecutors issued a revised 70-count indictment in July.

Drogoul pleads guilty in BNL Iraq loan case

ATLANTA (AP) — A banker who says he was made a scapegoat for failed U.S. policy in the Middle East has pleaded guilty to making unauthorised loans.

Christopher Drogoul's plea came just six days before he was to go on federal trial on 70-count bank-fraud indictment charging him with making \$5.5 billion in illegal loans to Iraq. Some of the money helped fund Iraq's military before the Gulf war.

Mr. Drogoul's attorneys had subpoenaed former President George Bush to testify.

Last fall, Mr. Drogoul pleaded guilty to some of the charges but withdrew the plea during a politically charged sentencing hearing.

Attorney General Janet Reno approved the new deal, Justice Department spokesman Carl Stern said. It includes guilty pleas to one count of wire fraud and two counts of making false statements to bank regulators.

"With these three counts, the government achieved the likely prison term which would have been achieved no matter how many counts you took to trial," Mr. Stern said. "It would have been pointless to go to trial."

Mr. Drogoul, who will be sentenced Nov. 29, could receive up to 60 years in prison. His attorney, Robert Simels, said he would ask U.S. District Judge G. Ernest Tidwell to limit Mr. Drogoul's sentence to the 17 months he has already served.

Mr. Simels said Mr. Drogoul agreed to the plea "as a result of the urging of his family to terminate the nightmare of this Alice-in-wonderland setting" and get him out of prison sooner.

Mr. Drogoul, the former Atlanta branch manager for Italy's state-owned Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, was accused of funneling \$5.5 billion to Iraq through loans and credit agreements and hiding the deals from BNL officials and U.S. regulators.

Before withdrawing his plea last year, Mr. Drogoul said his actions were approved by BNL headquarters in Rome and that the U.S. government was aware of the deals.

Arguing that the loans to Iraq were consistent with U.S. policy towards Iraq in the 1980s, Mr. Drogoul's attorney had called the case "the mother of all cover-ups."

For his sentencing hearing last year, his lawyers claimed Drogoul was being made a scapegoat for foreign-policy failures of then President Bush. Congressional critics, led by House Banking Committee chairman Henry Gonzalez, made similar charges last year as Mr. Bush was seeking re-election.

Mr. Drogoul was indicted in 1991, about 1 1/2 years after the BNL office in Atlanta was raided by the FBI.

He was accused, among other things, of using an Agriculture Department programme designed to promote farm exports to get the money to Iraq. At the time, most banks were refusing to loan money to Iraq because of its poor credit record.

Five BNL-Atlanta co-workers had pleaded guilty and were prepared to testify against Mr. Drogoul, prosecutors said. Last month, U.S. District Judge Marvin Shoob sentenced them to probation, calling them bit players in the scheme.

Mr. Drogoul has originally indicted in 1991 on 347 counts, but prosecutors issued a revised 70-count indictment in July.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel bars Arab-American from conference

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel has refused entry to an Arab-American scheduled to speak at a conference on non-violent solutions to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, conference organisers said Thursday. Mubarak Awad, 49, director of the Washington, D.C.-based Non-Violence International, was to be the keynote speaker at the conference, a statement said. Palestinians and Israelis for Non-Violent, the group that organised the conference, petitioned the Israeli high court to reverse the government's decision and allow Dr. Awad into the country. The court has agreed to a hearing, but has scheduled it for Sept. 6, the day before the conference. Linda Brayer, the attorney representing Palestinians and Israelis for Non-Violence, said the group would present its case in the hope that Dr. Awad will attend the last part of the conference. The Jerusalem-born Awad became a U.S. citizen during a 13-year stay in the United States but returned in 1983 to found the Centre for the Study of Non-Violence. The Israeli government deported him in June 1988, saying he had encouraged violence in the occupied territories, did not have a legal residence permit and was in Israel under an expired visa in his American passport. He now lives in Wapakoneta, Ohio. Dr. Awad's attorneys maintained he did not need a visa and should have been allowed permanent residence since he was born in Jerusalem before Israel seized the city's Arab section in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Israel disputes U.N. protest over shooting

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Israel took issue on Thursday with a recent U.N. protest over an incident in the Gaza Strip in which several U.N. medical staff were wounded by rubber bullets. In a letter to Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, Israeli U.N. envoy Gad Yaacobi said the Aug. 26 protest, accompanied by a request for an investigation, was "one-sided and does not reflect the full account of the events that took place." The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) had reported that an Israeli border policeman sitting in the back of a Jeep outside an UNRWA clinic in Khan Younis on Aug. 21 suddenly fired rubber bullets at a clearly marked U.N. ambulance surrounded by five medical personnel wearing white uniforms. Mr. Yaacobi said the incident occurred after an Israeli army patrol was attacked by stone-throwers and a soldier severely injured after being hit on the head by a slab of concrete. After evacuating the injured man, who remained in critical condition, the Israeli patrol chased and fired rubber bullets at the stone-throwers, some of whom found shelter in the nearby clinic. "Four UNRWA personnel who were at the site at that time were reported to suffer injuries," Mr. Yaacobi said. He added: "The Israeli military authorities assert that this is not the first time that stone-throwers sought shelter inside UNRWA facilities or that local UNRWA personnel and their vehicles were present at a time of such an event."

Yemen puts efforts to heal Kuwait ties on hold

SANAA (R) — Yemen, its relations with Gulf Arab states soured by its support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis, said on Thursday it had put efforts to mend fences with Kuwait on hold. But Foreign Minister Mohammad Saleh Basenwada said that his country was holding serious negotiations with Saudi Arabia on solving a border dispute and both sides wanted an agreement. Mr. Basenwada said efforts at reconciliation with Kuwait had been met by insults from some Kuwaitis, and Yemen was now putting these efforts on hold. "We say the ball is now in the Kuwaitis' court... it's up to them," he said. He told a news conference. Mr. Basenwada has been trying to mend fences with former Gulf Arab allies angered by Yemen's sympathy for Iraq following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Yemen, he said, was ready for any positive move from Kuwait, but it was being pushed towards "opposition" countries. Mr. Basenwada said Yemen and Saudi Arabia were trying to negotiate an amicable end to their dispute over a potentially oil-rich border area between the two countries. "Serious negotiations are going on over the border problem and there is a joint wish to solve it," he said. The U.S. oil company Hunt, which has an oil production agreement with Yemen, said Wednesday it had received a letter from a Saudi official which "expressed concerns" about an accord with Yemen granting the company drilling rights near the border with Saudi Arabia.

British solicitor

Home News

Experts debate reasons for Arab-European instability

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — While religious extremism, lack of democracy and clandestine immigration are considered by the West as the major reasons hindering progress and provoking instability between the Arab and European countries, the Arabs argue that poor economic conditions in the Arab World and the lack of Western aid lead to such consequences.

In their working papers on fundamentalism, human rights and immigration submitted at the two-day meeting of the Arab-European Dialogue held at Forte Grand Hotel, Arab researchers and experts expressed their concern over Western misconceptions of Arabs and what they see as insufficient economic support by the West of the Arab World's development.

They say that religious extremism, or fundamentalism "as the West tends to put it" is a logical consequence of poverty and of the Western policy towards the Arab World.

In his paper on the causes of religious extremism (fun-

damentalism) in the Arab countries, Ahmad Sidqi Al-Dajani, president of the Higher Council of Education at the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said the principal causes of religious extremism are: the imperialist practices in the Arab countries that have a "racist, aggressive character," the double standard policy used by the U.S. which drives people "to adopting extremist thought and consequently using violence in confronting it," the International Monetary Fund's policies that impose certain conditions on these countries; and the lack of democracy in the Arab countries.

These countries suffer in turn from institutional violence coupled with total failure to communicate with youths who fall prey to such kinds of violence and consequently religious violence grows in their milieu," Mr. Dajani said.

Senator Laila Sharaf, who chaired the Thursday evening session, said in her concluding statement that the human rights issue, which is promoted and urged for by the West is being used as a weapon against the Arab countries who "will

be the victims of human rights."

Questioning the reasons behind Europe's lack of attention attributed to the region (Arab countries) while there is a noticeable support given to Israel, President of Noor Al-Hussein Foundation, Imam Mufti said, "there isn't the support one expects to have on the economic level which is consequently one of the causes of rising religious extremism."

In his response to questions raised by the Arab side on Europe's policy towards Arab countries, Belgian Senator Roger Heineuse said that Europe is not perfect in implementing human rights: But Europe does not aim to become an imperialist."

The two-day meeting which ended Thursday was viewed by many participants as one of the positive steps taken to enhance dialogue and understanding between Europeans and Arabs. However, as some participants pointed out, there hasn't been actual participation from France or Germany or other European countries and urged for by the West is being used as a weapon against the Arab countries who "will

106,000 wre unemployed in '92

AMMAN (Petra) — Surveys conducted by the National Aid Fund (NAF) on unemployment in Jordan have revealed that by the end of 1992 there were 106,000 job seekers in the Kingdom, accounting for 15 per cent of the total workforce.

NAF Director General Mohammad Simadi said that 75 per cent of these unemployed individuals were graduates of community colleges, technical institutes and universities.

Noting that the number of unemployed in 1991 was 127,000, Dr. Simadi said the NAF was

striving to deal with the problem in several ways and contributing effectively to related national efforts.

"One way to tackle the problem,

said Dr. Simadi, is to encourage job seekers to obtain training in a trade that is currently in demand in the local labour market. He said others could be helped to start their small size income-generating projects or businesses.

Each year at least 46,000 people enter the Jordanian labour market which can create only 32,000 jobs annually, given that the economy continues to grow at the rate of four to five per cent, Dr. Simadi explained.

Unless appropriate measures are taken to deal with unemployment at the national level, he warned that the problem could soon assume very serious proportions and would be impossible to handle.

Syria reports surprising progress

(Continued from page 1) and embassies.

A Syrian source said a Middle East shuttle by Secretary of State Warren Christopher a month ago had clarified that Syria was ready to go beyond a simple ending of the state of war if Israel was ready for total withdrawal from the Golan.

"Our people, when talking about peace, can talk more freely now. We will see if the Israelis can talk more freely about withdrawal," the source said.

To prepare for this vastly changed Middle East landscape, notably the quick Israeli troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho and limited Palestinian self-rule in the rest of the West Bank, Secretary of State Warren Christopher is working on an international aid package.

"The United States will participate in the matter, but the funds, I think, will primarily come from others," Mr. Christopher said on National Public Radio. "... the Gulf countries, countries around the world, I think, will be interested in participating. The United States as usual will do its part," (see page 2).

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev Friday welcomed the "possible breakthrough" in negotiations between Israel and the PLO.

Mr. Kozyrev, whose country co-chairs with the United States the peace talks, expressed support for the peace process in

the coming stage, the NAF which helps needy families through monthly cash assistance or grants and loans for businesses, plans to adopt a decentralised system to reach all sectors and as many needy persons as possible, Dr. Simadi said.

He said that the NAF was

cooperating with the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF), provincial governors and official departments in carrying out its services.

The NAF plans to conduct

surveys on socio-economic conditions of clusters of villages in the rural regions prior to considering initiating income-generating projects for them as groups, Dr. Simadi explained.

In the coming stage, the NAF

which helps needy families

through monthly cash assistance

or grants and loans for

businesses, plans to adopt a

decentralised system to

reach all sectors and as

many needy persons as

possible, Dr. Simadi said.

Mr. Kozyrev was considering a trip to the Middle East in the near future, and a senior Russian diplomat would go to the region to prepare the visit, according to the ministry quoted by Interfax news agency.

Russia had until now remained

very discreet on the PLO-Israeli

talks.

President Bill Clinton said

Thursday "there's reason for hope" in the peace talks, and he praised both sides for being committed to reaching agreement.

"We've been up the hill and

down the hill before with the

Middle East, but these people are

really working at it and I think

their hearts as well as their minds

are in it," the president said. "I

think we should keep our fingers

crossed."

Mr. Clinton said the parties

have been "quite candid with

the public and the press about some

continuing difficulties. But they

are really working hard and with

great candor, I think, with one

another. I hope."

Discussing the U.S. role, Mr.

Clinton said, "We're just a sponsor

in this process. They will have

to make the agreement. And I

think that's their reason for

hope."

He made his comments in the

Rose Garden during a photo

opportunity with Russian Prime

Minister Victor Chernomyrdin.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Plastic art exhibition by artists Mohammad Al 'Ameri and Ghassan Abu Laban at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Arab calligraphy exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

New art gallery, "Darat Al-Funun," of the Abdul Majeed Shoman Foundation. Programme includes the permanent exhibition and the "Chair" exhibition in Jabal Lewabdeh.

Exhibition by Syrian artist Nadir Kassif at Baladna Art Gallery.

Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Baladna Art Gallery, Amman Shopping Centre.

JOB VACANCIES

PROJECT MANAGER

7-10 years experience in the following:

- Construction Management and Supervision.
- Preparing and Monitoring Work Schedules using the CPM Method.

SITE SUPERVISORS

5-7 years experience.

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANTS

2-3 years experience in the following:

- English & Arabic Typing.
- General Office Skills.
- Computer Literacy (Apple Macintosh or IBM).

All Applications enclosing C.V. should be sent not later than 11.09.1993 to P.O. Box 925 971, 11110 Amman, Jordan. (Fax No. 606 800).

All Applications will be treated as PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL.

Fundamentalists, leftists protest 'Gaza-Jericho' plan

By P. V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Muslim fundamentalists joined hands with leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten — an alliance of leftist Friday to stage a protest in the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

Established 1975

جريدة عربية مستقلة تصدر باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Fax: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Elevation after disquiet

THE INITIAL Arab reaction to Palestinian-Israeli agreement over the "Gaza-Jericho first" option was characterised mostly by surprise but also by some dismay over the method used to reach the accord. Such reaction is understandable from the point of view that the Palestinians and Israelis, had almost virtually kept everyone in the dark over their secret negotiations in Norway and other capitals, and also bypassed the people and formula involved in the Madrid-then-Washington peace talks.

After Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's early declared intentions to achieve a breakthrough in his country's negotiations with Syria, the Palestinians pushed for what has become regular Arab coordination sessions. The Palestinians had feared, and rightly so, that an agreement between Syria and Israel would leave them out in the cold. Jordan, being the country that provided the Palestinians with an umbrella to enter the talks and which is the party most involved in the Palestinian cause, has also had all the right to feel uneasy about an impending accord between Palestinians and the Israelis without proper coordination.

Now that the features of the accord have become clearer and most people have overcome the initial shock, the pace of the talks in Washington seems to be picking up, especially on the Syrian-Israeli track.

The Arab side has always argued that the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict is the Palestinian problem, and that in order to achieve peace the Israelis have to deal with the Palestinians directly and meet their demands for self-determination and statehood. And since the issue of Palestine and the conflict over it seem to be witnessing a breakthrough, the least the Arabs can do is to bless the independent will of the Palestinians and find ways by which to help them achieve their true goals of nationhood, especially in the final stage of negotiations, which is going to be the toughest of all. The Palestinians, dispersed all over the region, are now agonising and will continue to be over the Oslo agreement. The Palestinian leadership, namely Chairman Arafat, will need the support of the whole nation if he is to succeed in this endeavour. For any agreement between the Palestinians and the concerned Arab parties, on one hand, and Israel on the other to hold and mature, the whole Arab Nation should be ready with its blessing and unequivocal support.

After all, peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis alone is not enough.

For the peace to last and to be accepted by all the future generations, each country in the region and every nation that has a stake in the stability of the Middle East should positively contribute towards its success. The moderate, pragmatic faction in the Palestinian camp is facing a formidable battle with both the Israeli hardliners and their own. The months ahead will witness opposition and even conflict within the Palestinian house. That is why His Majesty King Hussein's call on the Arabs to close their ranks and get their act together comes at the right moment and requires positive response. These are really historic, but trying, times. The opportunity for a better deal, in both the regional and international arenas, must not be wasted.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AWT AL SHAAB Arabic daily echoed King Hussein's regret at lack of coordination among Arab parties has led to the present confused situation. Referring to the King's television interview, parts of which were telecast Wednesday night, the writer said that the Arab Nation is deeply divided, not only due to the Gulf crisis but also because of talks with Israel. The paper pointed out that the Arabs have no cards to play, except through their joint stand at the peace talks, particularly in view of Israel's military superiority, supported by the United States and in the sense of a strong United Nations, to impose the international legitimacy. It is regrettable to see a retreat from coordination among the Arab parties involved in talks with Israel and it is agreed that such lack of coordination would encourage Israel and the United States to force the Arabs give more and unjustified concessions to the Israelis, added the paper. Noting that Jordan is surprised to hear about the so-called Gaza-Jericho first option, the paper said that many Palestinians, including those in leadership, were not informed of this move either. Jordan, the paper, can not impose anything on others, and the Palestinians have all the right to take their own, free decision, pressing their free will concerning their own destiny. But, it is, since the future of the Palestinian land is of concern to all the Arabs, it becomes necessary for the Arab leaders to convene a summit and take appropriate decisions reflecting their joint stand vis-à-vis the historic events now taking place in the region.

GAZA-Jericho first option is the logical outcome of the Arab weakness and defeat in the wars with Israel, the United States and their other allies, said Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Aroub. All these talks, concessions, disputes and disappointments would not have been necessary had the Arabs been united, and determined to regain their usurped lands, said the writer. The Palestinians were not defeated in June 1967, because they did not fight a war, but the defeat was that of the Arab order, the face of the successes achieved by the U.S.-led western alliance during the cold war which saw the demise of the Soviet Union, added the writer.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Kellani

Palestinian nation can wait for a better deal

FOR ALL practical and technical purposes, there is little chance of Yasser Arafat's changing his mind on the so-called Gaza-Jericho first option. The ongoing meetings in Tunis are nothing but an orchestrated campaign aimed at imparting an impression of Palestinian consensus over the issue amid continued protest from some of our colleagues as well as from the rank and file of Palestinians, whether in the occupied territories or outside.

Even if the Palestinian information media comes out with loud proclamation of support for Mr. Arafat, it can fool nobody. The situation in the Middle East problem has reached an extent where realities can no longer be sidelined and mouths can not be gagged anymore since the Palestinian struggle has come to a make-or-break point.

To say the least, the manoeuvrings of Mr. Arafat, the long-reigning chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and president of the national state of Palestine, reek of autocracy and personal ambitions.

The main difference between Mr. Arafat and many other Palestinian leaders is simple: Mr. Arafat would like to see himself formally installed as president of Palestine even if that meant one square kilometre of territory under guns; others believe that despite the superior military strength of Israel and the almost unlimited support the Jewish state gets from the West, particularly the U.S., the battle is not lost and they could wait a few years more, hoping to make the occupied territories totally ungovernable for the Israelis.

That was indeed the inherent objective of the Palestinian intifada when it started in the occupied territories in December 1987. That was the answer of the people under occupation who were fed up with their brethren outside unable to do anything but adopt resolutions and issue rhetorics after meeting in luxurious hotels while they themselves were suffering under the yoke of occupation.

The key question that Mr. Arafat has to ask himself is: Is the prospect of governing the Gaza Strip and Jericho, as nothing

more than a municipality with little or no independence at all, worth the thousands of lives that the Palestinian people sacrificed throughout the years?

Is that what millions of Palestinians languishing in refugee camps in the occupied territories and outside deserve after all these years of suffering?

To be fair to Mr. Arafat, long considered the symbol of Palestinian struggle and nationalism, we have to admit that the man has led the Palestinian march through severe crises and managed to keep some semblance of an organised movement (that is if we overlook the steady defection from the ranks of the organisation over the years).

But a closer look will clearly show that the dissent within the PLO mostly stemmed from Mr. Arafat's autocratic approach to decision-making and his intolerance for voices that opposed his viewpoint and policies. So, if Mr. Arafat managed to keep the mainstream PLO mostly in one piece through the crises, that was because what was at stake was not the future of the organisation but his own, personal survival.

It would be naive to go by the long-held view that if Mr. Arafat had departed from the scene, the PLO would have collapsed. There was and still is more than enough young blood in the Palestinian ranks to replace Mr. Arafat.

But a marked difference has emerged today. The policies and approach of Mr. Arafat have taken the PLO to the brink of collapse. His moves in the past year have somehow been oriented towards dismantling PLO institutions. The most vivid example of such a strategy came in the form of a recent order issued by Mr. Arafat to set up a committee to look into "retirement compensation" for the staff of many PLO institutions.

The net picture that emerges from a close look at the status of the PLO today is an intertwining of the future of the PLO with that of Mr. Arafat. If Mr. Arafat goes down today, whoever inherits his place will have one hell of a time trying to reorganise things within the PLO. But what is more important is the fact that

going down with Mr. Arafat will not only be the credibility and legitimacy of the Palestine Liberation Organisation but also the representative status of the movement.

On the other hand, if the mainstream PLO leadership manages to convince Mr. Arafat that his personal ambitions should be placed above the higher national interests of the Palestinian nation at large and to bring about fundamental changes in the PLO decision-making process, the movement could still be salvaged.

But then, the question remains: Is Mr. Arafat in a frame of mind, today, after so many years of autocracy, to change tracks and look at things differently?

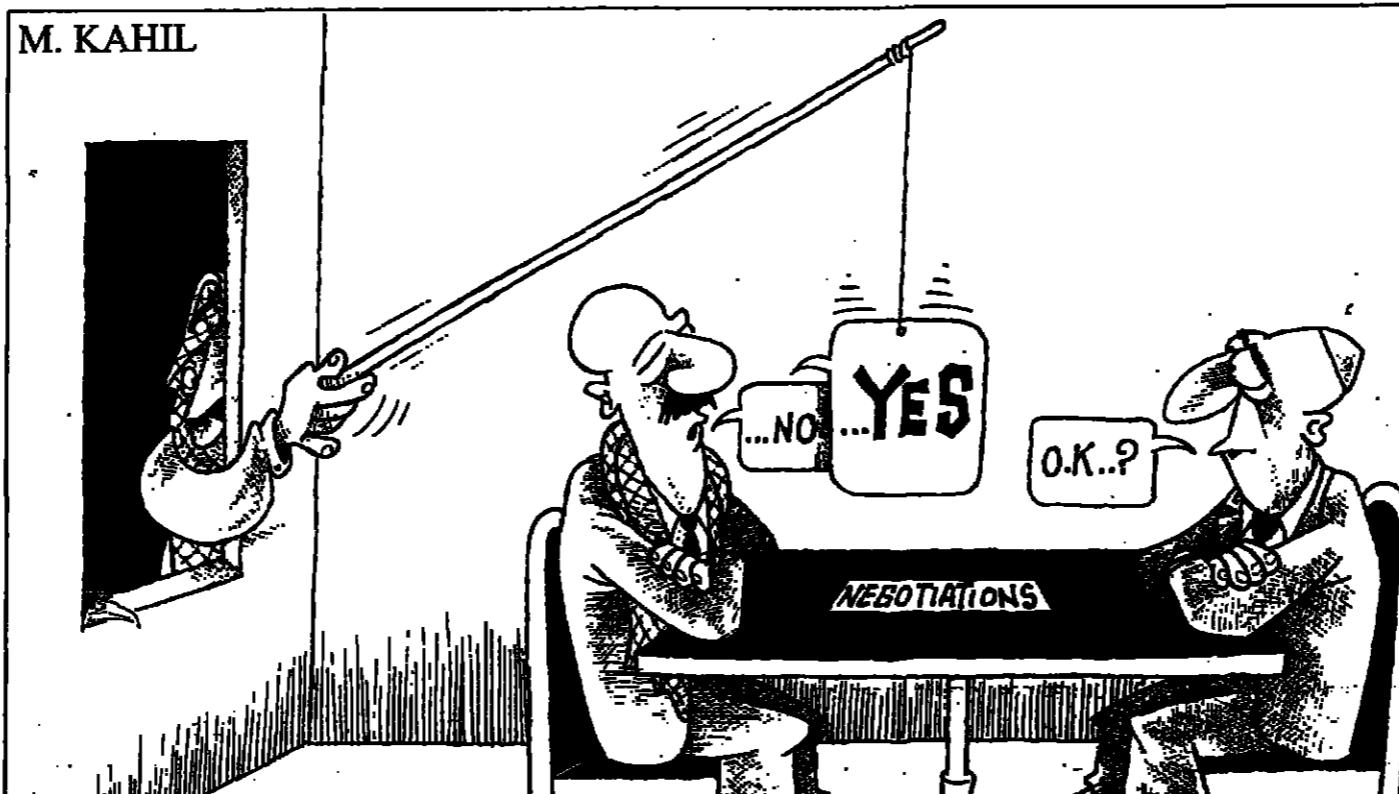
Can he learn to understand that it is important to be important, but not to the extent where personal importance means everything even if it implies a total belittling of the efforts and sacrifices of others? Can he be taught to learn that it is vital to respect the opinion of others?

But what will happen to the peace process in the meantime? Can the so-called "declaration of principles" which is directly tied to mutual Israel-PLO recognition and the Gaza-Jericho first option wait until order is restored to the PLO house?

I would venture to say yes. The Palestinian nation has waited so long for the realisation of its aspiration to independence and freedom that it could wait a little longer if it means a better deal for the Palestinians.

That is not to underestimate the pressure that would be applied on the Palestinians from all quarters not to let go of what the U.S. and the West describe as "the golden opportunity and historic agreement." But then, as far as the Palestinian people is concerned, there is nothing golden or historic in the Gaza-Jericho first option. It only means occupation in a different form and a consolidation of moves to settle the Palestinian problem with quarter-cooked solutions and imagery of better days which may never come.

M. KAHIL



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Media split over Gaza-Jericho option

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The Gaza-Jericho first option was the issue tackled by editorials and columnists' articles in the local Arabic press in the past week. Prospects for a Middle East peace and domestic issues also featured in the press.

The fact that the Palestinians and the Israelis have reached agreement that the autonomy rule should start with Gaza and Jericho first means that the past 10 rounds of peace negotiations were not held in vain, said Sultan Al Hattab, a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

Perhaps this is the first time that the Israelis and the Palestinians are taking practical and reasonable steps to end the long conflict that had plagued the region for generations, said the writer.

Praising the efforts of the Palestinians in this regard, the writer said one has to remember that the 1000-mile journey starts with a little step.

His colleague in Al Ra'i, Fahd Al Faraj, criticised the step as not fulfilling the dream of the Palestinians to have their own state. The agreement, as it stands, provides for Israel to remain in control of the Palestinian lands as it will be in charge of overall security and will retain its settlements in the Arab territory, said the writer.

It is regrettable, said the writer, to see that such an agreement had not been endorsed by the Arab parties as a whole, a situation which reflects lack of coordination among the Arab parties involved in the peace process, he added.

Saleh Ekour, in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the Gaza-Jericho first option is something that the Arabs must resist. This proposal delays any discussion of the Holy City of Jerusalem, which is holy for the Arabs and Muslims, said the writer. It seems that the PLO leadership is selling out the rights of the Palestinians and the Muslims in the Holy City and accepting a meagre part of the occupied territories.

for Al Ra'i daily, said that as long as the Palestinians have not regained their rights usurped since 1948, they should by no means abandon their demands and their lands.

The Palestinians should adhere to their national charter until a final settlement has been reached, ensuring Palestinian people's rights, he demanded.

Mona Shuaqir, columnist in Al Dustour, said that the PLO remains a symbol for the Palestinian people, but at the same time the PLO leadership remains subject to criticism from the public.

The writer said that it is not enough that the symbol exists in words, it should also manifest itself by deeds.

She said that the disputes within the PLO and the recent resignations by a number of its leaders indicate that there is an opposition to the idea of the Gaza-Jericho first or other issues. She said that the PLO leadership ought to adapt to the new situation and introduce reform else it could be faced with cancellation.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab demanded that the Health Ministry disclose to the public the cause of the typhoid fever that spread in the past week in the Ajloun district.

It was a wise step of the ministry to take extra precautionary measures against the spread of the disease, but the ministry should openly announce the causes of the infection so that the public can take precautions against it, said the writer.

The writer said that opposition to the proposal should be taken very seriously by the PLO leadership if it is keen on reserving unity within its own ranks.

Mahmoud Rimawi cautioned the PLO leadership against accepting Israel's condition of deleting parts of the Palestine National Charter which calls for non-recognition of Israel.

The columnist, who writes

liamentary elections in November since this is a national issue. But he noted that one can find a way of resolving the problem through the Social Security Corporation which can be developed to cover unemployment benefits for the job-seekers.

He suggested that a special tax be imposed on the public and the workers so that the government can collect sufficient funds to give the unemployed until they can get a job.

What we need, said the writer, is to see the future deputies in Parliament not merely talking about this issue but taking practical steps to solve the problem.

A columnist in Al Dustour said that most of the candidates running for parliament in Jordan are trying to reach there for the sake of imposing their will later through the executive authority. Most Parliamentarians hope to be members of government and acquire real executive power in Jordan, said Mohammad Kawash. He said that the government in Jordan should not include any member of Parliament which can deal with legislations only and thus safeguard real democracy in the country.

Hosni Ayyash, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that some Arab countries are blaming the Jordanian Parliament and the press for the strained ties between Jordan and the Arab world.

The writer said that under a democracy, the press and Parliament are free to express their views and those of the people, unlike the parliaments and the press of the other Arab countries which are strictly controlled by the state.

It seems, said the writer, that the other Arab countries are hostile to Jordan not because of its nationalist stand during the Gulf crisis, but because of the democracy exercised in the Kingdom and which is considered dangerous to their regimes.

With respect to what Eliane Abdul Malek says in her letter, "Who comes first?" (Jordan Times, August 29, 1993) concerning the plight of the maimed horse found abandoned in Abdoun recently, I want to ask whether there is really a conflict between animals' suffering and care for human beings.

Do we have to wait until the last human mouth has been fed, until the last war has been fought, before we turn our attention to the needs of our animals? Surely, the compassion we feel for our fellow human beings and the animals that share this planet can go hand in hand. I might remind Ms. Abdul Malek that the animals that we have domesticated over thousands of years are our responsibility and societies like the Jordanian Society for the Protection of Animals (JSPA) provide a valuable service to the owners of working animals. By forming animal welfare societies, nobody is suggesting that animals come before human beings, as was implied by Ms. Abdul Malek. Yes, there is too much human suffering in this world and yes, those people deserve our help and support, but so do the animals that share our planet, that work for us and give so much joy and pleasure to so many people.

I find the writer's attitude very complacent. It's so easy to turn away from a creature's suffering or ill treatment because it does not concern us, to use the excuse that there is enough human suffering without concerning ourselves with a maimed horse. It should concern us all, be it human or animal suffering. Haven't we got enough compassion to go around?

We, as human beings, take so much from this planet and give very little back. Perhaps, by showing consideration to and care for the animals that share this good earth with us we would take a step in the right direction. We can address both problems, human and animal suffering, at the same time, perhaps not equally or with the same vigour, but the plight of our animals should not be ignored. After all, they are God's creatures too.

Mrs. J. Masri,
P.O. Box 6181,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

LETTERS

God's creatures too

To the Editor:

In reply to the letter from Eliane Abdul Malek, "Who comes first?" (Jordan Times, Aug. 29, 1993), I have to say I am amazed and shocked at such an attitude.

As I said in my letter the same day, there already is a system which is there to "deal quickly and effectively with a situation of this type; but it does not always work so efficiently as it should. Ambulances do pick up injured people very quickly. Ignoring a terribly badly injured animal, such as the horse in question which was in excruciating pain in excessive heat, would have soon caused problems. It would have died anyway and its carcass would still have had to be removed, particularly as it was in the middle of a residential area.

Arguing that human beings are more important does not hold. The human problems of the world are not happening because some people choose to help animals. I must point out that there are several hundred charities helping human beings in Jordan, and only two helping animals in a comparatively small way. Just because someone loves animals it doesn't mean human beings have to be neglected. Likewise, to ignore or neglect a suffering animal because human beings are more important, does not benefit the latter. One can still be compassionate to both. To ignore an injured animal in such agony as this horse was, would be a gross act of inhumanity. Are we expected to forget all about animals until the last human mouth is fed? When would that be??

Man has domesticated many species of animals to the extent where they are now utterly dependent on him. Therefore, man must be responsible for their proper care and protection.

Jordan is not entirely "not animal-friendly", especially that animal health is human health. Without these animals many families could not earn their living.

It should be common sense to protect everything God gave life to — animals, nature and us. We must not forget that animals were also created and that they are living sentient beings and not inanimate objects to be

Jordan completes disengagement process with Palestinians, but keeps door open

(Continued from page 1)

Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

Yet the King kept the door open for further consultations with the PLO and at the same time strongly resented any Israeli influenced formulae.

In the lengthy interview the King avoided any explicit challenge to the PLO and its role while he tried to reconcile between reiterating respect for the independence of the Palestinian decision and Jordan's keenness to distance itself from any responsibility for concessions that were made in the Israeli-Palestinian accord.

His subtle and implicit style gave way to interpretations that Jordan is blessing the contents of the accord while a careful reading shows that it supports any Palestinian decision regardless of any reservations that it could harbour.

The King's statement signalled shift from a relationship of an assumed "partnership" that has obviously failed so far to overcome the bitterness and suspicions of the past to that of two separate parties — at least in the immediate term — whose decisions do not have to be interlinked.

The implied disengagement of Jordanian and Palestinian decisions, according to the interview, has not been determined by a Jordanian decision but a reaction to the PLO's attempts to assert its independence from Jordan.

"His Majesty was speaking as a concerned Arab leader rather than a party directly involved in determining the future of Palestine," said one Jordanian source who is familiar with King Hussein's thinking.

The practical implications of the new Jordanian approach are not clear yet. But, according to Jordanian sources, the King is still studying the situation and his top priority will be

to protect Jordanian national and security interests.

But officials and analysts believe that Jordan's next step will depend, to a great extent, on the next move by the PLO.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has obviously got the message conveyed by the King's interview and he called him by telephone from Tunis Friday.

Jordanian officials, and even some Palestinian officials, were critical of Mr. Arafat's consultations with Egypt, Morocco and Tunis in the last few days while ignoring Jordan, which many in both sides still firmly believes has an intertwined future with Palestine.

There was no official Palestinian reaction but the PLO leadership is expected to feel under pressure to try to improve coordination with Jordan, especially that it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to implement the Israeli-Palestinian accord or begin to discuss final status arrangements without Jordan.

Furthermore, there is more pressure than ever on Mr. Arafat from within the PLO, including from groups that until a few years ago had categorically rejected association with Jordan, to reach an understanding with King Hussein on a joint strategy and the form of the future relationship — away from Israeli, American or even Egyptian influence.

Since the outset of the Israeli-Arab talks 22 months ago, Jordan has been complaining publicly and privately about the lack of sufficient coordination between Jordan and the PLO and the Arab parties to the talks generally. Jordanian officials, have particularly been disconcerted by Mr. Arafat's constant close coordination with Egypt and apparent attempt to keep a distance from Jordan.

In the interview, King Hussein revealed that Mr. Arafat

had actually notified him about the start of the secret negotiations with Israel, prior to the King's departure to Washington last June, and that on his last visit in August, the PLO chairman took him aside and told him that there was a sort of proposal involving a deal based on the establishment of early Palestinian self-rule in Jericho and Gaza Strip first.

But, according to the King, the Palestinian leader did not put him fully in the picture and did not consult with him before signing the draft agreement.

"We have not been in the picture... we were not aware of the details," the King said.

According to both Jordanian

and PLO officials, Mr. Arafat's reliance on Egypt largely reflected his fear of what he perceives as Jordanian, and specifically Hashemite, threat and potential rivalry to speak on behalf of the Palestinians.

King Hussein, who is said to be fully aware and pained by Mr. Arafat's thinking that has roots in the turbulent history between Jordan and the organisation, firmly defended his family's role and refuted claims that they sought tutelage over the Palestinians.

In the interview the King put his brief account of the relationship between the Hashemites and Palestine, arguing that his family has always been

attached and faithful to Palestine and refused to compromise on the status of Jerusalem and has not sought "patronage" of the Palestinian cause.

"Right from the very beginning, this family (the Hashemites) has always been committed to Palestine in terms of safeguarding Palestinian national rights on Palestinian land and to Jerusalem by protecting rights of the Muslims and the Christians and defending the city," the King stressed.

King Hussein invoked the memory of his great grandfather Sherif Hussein Ibn Ali who was exiled by the British mandate authorities for refusing

to compromise his goal of an independent unified Arab World and a free Palestine.

"Hussein the First was the first to confront those plots (against Jerusalem). He chose to sacrifice everything rather than to compromise the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland," the King said.

He argued that the Hashemites continued carrying out their commitment towards Palestine up until 1974 when the PLO sought an independent representation of the Palestinians and to put an end to what it viewed as "the Hashemite patronage," at an Arab summit in Morocco.

.....My brother the Palestinian president, who was then the PLO chairman urged the Arabs to save him and the Palestinian people from Jordanian patronage," the King recalled with obvious pain touching on a deep wound that the conflict and competition for the representation have caused for both sides.

There are trends in both camps which seek a total disengagement, but the overwhelming trend, both in Jordan and the PLO, so far seems to be that of those who want to establish a sound relationship on equal footing, according to officials and analysts.

Consequently, these analysts and officials expect to see moves by Jordanians and Palestinians in the next two weeks to try to contain an aggravation of the differences and to look for new horizons in the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship on all levels.

Syria praises Israeli seriousness

(Continued from page 1)

But it said that Israel was aware of the Syrian attitude that full withdrawal from the Golan Heights was unquestionable.

Syrian negotiator Mouaffak Al Alif said at the end of Thursday's session his team was focusing on "the most important issues" in its talks with the Israelis. He said he hoped to reach an outline agreement by the end of this round.

The radio said the two sides finished discussion of the first four clauses in a Syrian document and were moving to a fifth which covers withdrawal from all the occupied territories.

The commentary also called once again for full cooperation among the Arab peace partners.

"Partial solutions and unilateral deals do not make peace but lay the ground for more conflicts and disturbances," the radio said.

"Wisdom dictates that in a thorny and complex conflict like that of the Middle East a comprehensive peace on all fronts should be established."

Israelis open fire on Gazans

(Continued from page 1)

peace which will not be affected by local or international changes or events," it said.

Attempts to extort Syria did not work in the past and will not work now," it said, but it added:

"The more Syria insists on regaining full occupied lands the more its readiness to establish firm, solid, real, honourable, just and comprehensive peace."

The commentary also called once again for full cooperation among the Arab peace partners.

"Partial solutions and unilateral deals do not make peace but lay the ground for more conflicts and disturbances," the radio said.

"Wisdom dictates that in a thorny and complex conflict like that of the Middle East a comprehensive peace on all fronts should be established."

American enemy behind it, who are trying to humiliate and intimidate our people and liquidate our cause," the caller said.

Hamas also said its activists Friday lobbed a grenade that did not explode at a house occupied by Israeli settlers.

A TWO-FLOOR VILLA NEEDED

A two-floor villa with a garden is needed. Locations: Jabal Amman, Shmeisani, Abdoun, Luweibdeh. First floor should include spacious lounges. Annual rent not to exceed JD9,500. For further information pls. call tel. 679454

VILLA FOR RENT

Location: Khalda, behind the New English School. Area of building: 300 square metres. Consists of salon, hall and dining room, 4 bedrooms, one master, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, 2 verandas; with garage, water-well and central heating. Modern building, deluxe finishing. Annual rent: JD12,000.

For more information please call tel. 666667.

CRANE FOR HIRE

AVAILABLE "12" TON MOBILE CRANE FOR HIRE - LONG LEASE ONLY COMPETITIVE RATES

FOR DETAILS PLEASE CALL TEL. 660502

Picasso created fine paintings

We create fine Jewellery

DAJANI

Amra Hotel — Amman.

EXCELLENT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

We are a leading and fast growing company headquartered in Amman, Jordan. Our activities are diverse and include trading, manufacturing, retail, professional services and portfolio investments. We are currently undergoing significant growth with the startup of several large projects. To successfully control and manage such projects, we are seeking to recruit qualified, energetic and commercially minded professionals who can cope with pressure and thrive on the challenge this excellent opportunity provides.

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Reporting to the V.P. Finance and supported by several accountants, the position will assume responsibility for the production of timely management and financial accounting. More importantly, in the short term, will be the establishment of meaningful accounting, costing, planning, and management information systems together with the critical review of systems procedures to enable the Company's management to monitor the performance of the business effectively. As a key member of a small executive team you can expect considerable involvement in the strategic planning and commercial management of the business.

You should be a graduate certified accountant with an excellent record of achievement and should have operated at least to Financial Controller or Manager level. You are likely to be aged 29-36 and must have excellent command of the English language. You should be commercially oriented, dynamic and must be computer literate with hands on approach to the accounting function. You should also possess excellent communication, management and team building skills and be comfortable working in a busy, demanding and high pressured environment. You should also have had demonstrable experience in the implementation of MIS and systems enhancement. Experience in manufacturing or trading would be advantageous.

MIS ANALYST

Reporting to the MIS manager, you will assist in the implementation of new accounting, costing, planning and management information systems for the Company. Rather than programming these systems from scratch, you will work on customizing ready made financial packages to fit the requirements of the Company. You will be exposed to state of the art computer technology and systems through on the job training and through enrollment in training programs given by software vendors overseas.

You should have a degree in MIS or alternatively a degree in Computer Science with a strong background in accounting. You should be able to demonstrate an excellent record of achievement in University through outstanding grades and/or the completion of advanced computer projects. You should have a minimum of two years experience in a computer software company with a working knowledge of financial programs including general ledger, inventory, accounts payable, accounts receivable, and job costing packages

Both positions will provide an attractive financial package based on qualifications and a wide range of benefits that you would expect from a large and successful organization.

Please apply in writing, enclosing detailed resumes in English no later than 7/9/1993, quoting this ad to:

V.P. Finance

PO Box 7239 - Amman, Jordan

All applications will be handled with strict confidentiality.

Any One
For
Tennis



FORTE
GRAND
AMMAN

Work-out your aggression
and rest afterwards at the
newest and greatest
Tennis Club.
in town.

(Formerly Amman Plaza Hotel)
Queen Noor Street Shmeisani P.O. Box 950629 Amman 11110 Jordan
Tel: 962 6 6741111 Telex: 0493 23266 Fax: 962 6 674 261

Economy

Saudis may resort to tax, privatisation to cut budget deficit

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia may have to impose minor income taxes and privatise some institutions to cut a nagging budget deficit affecting its oil-dependent economy, Gulf bankers and economists have said.

The deficit, caused by a sharp decline in oil prices over the past decade, has forced Saudi Arabia to drain most of its overseas assets and reserves with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The kingdom has been reluctant to make further spending cuts, arguing it would hurt the economy, which depends heavily on government spending.

"Saudi Arabia can cut spending in certain sectors in a way that will not affect performance and services," a Gulf economist said. "But this is not enough because the deficit is not small. It should be coupled with certain measures like imposing small income taxes and privatising public institutions which are not making reasonable profits. The Saudis might be thinking of such steps because they have no other choice."

Except for token corporate taxes, Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich Gulf Arab states do not impose income taxes or, individuals although all have suffered from a chronic deficit over the past decade.

Most workers in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are foreigners, whose incomes are among the highest in the world.

"Saudi Arabia has around five million workers and a tax of between 20 to 100 riyals per month means it will earn more than three billion riyals (\$800 million) a year. This, coupled with small spending cuts and

earnings from selling government shares in public institutions, will enable Saudi Arabia to eliminate the budget deficit," an economic expert said.

Saudi Arabia's economy was thrown into doubt after a series of reports by the New York Times last week that unrestrained spending had slashed its overseas assets to \$51 billion from \$121 billion in the early 1980s.

The paper also cited a secret IMF report advising Riyadh to reduce its budget deficit after it swelled to more than eight per cent of its gross domestic product.

The deficit was projected at \$7.4 billion in 1993, down from \$8 billion in 1992.

In the absence of other major non-oil income sources, Riyadh was forced to withdraw from its reserves and borrow from the local and foreign markets, creating a public debt of nearly \$17 billion.

The problem was aggravated by huge payments to a U.S.-led coalition that ousted Iraq from Kuwait in February 1991.

According to bankers, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait contributed the bulk of the \$56 billion paid by GCC countries to the war effort.

The Saudi budget deficit is remediable given the country's huge resources. But there is a pressing need for spending cuts and privatisation of some institutions inside and outside the kingdom," a banker said. "Privatisation will have a dual benefit: it will yield funds for the government and enable it to save money because it is paying large subsidies for several institutions to keep them running."

Bhutto pledges basic structural changes in election manifesto

LAMABAD (AFP) — Former Pakistani premier Benazir Bhutto, unveiling her party's election manifesto, has promised basic structural changes in the country's economic and political systems.

"We are giving a revolutionary manifesto," said Ms. Bhutto, 40, whose Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is pitted against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML) October general elections.

Ms. Bhutto, who ruled from 1988 to 1990 as Pakistan's first prime minister, said if returned to power her party would introduce a "new revolutionary concept" of business enterprises based on public-private partnership.

She also pledged to set up new governments of elected representatives in all districts of the country to decentralise authority to address peoples' problems more effectively.

Ms. Bhutto said a government her party would also review a

tax on farm incomes the caretaker Prime Minister Moen Qureshi has decided to impose as part of reforms to cut the budget deficit.

Instead the PPP would revamp an existing Islamic produce donation system, called ushr, in the agricultural sector to realise "four to five times" more revenues than the tax proposed by the caretakers, she said.

In a stinging attack on Mr. Sharif, who resigned last month as political turmoil cut short his tenure, Ms. Bhutto his two and a half rule for an unprecedented rise in inflation and the budget deficit.

She said budget deficit was 8.6 per cent of gross domestic product and inflation 12 per cent when she took over in 1988 but her government brought these down to 6.7 per cent and 5.6 per cent.

"The budget deficit jumped to 8.8 per cent and the inflation to 30 per cent during Sharif's rule," she said.

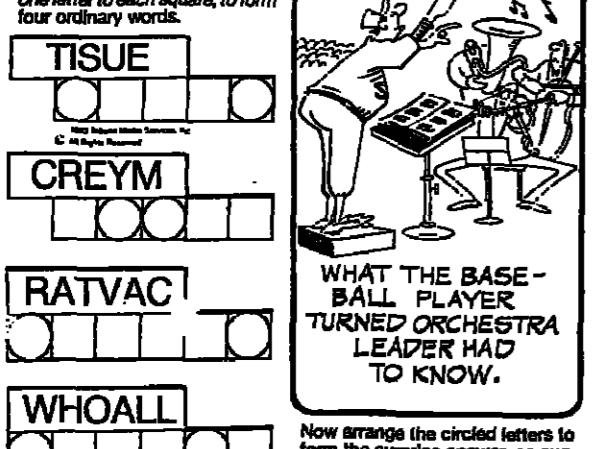
THE BETTER HALF By Glasberg



"There's a story on Page 23 about women who go to extremes to get their husbands to notice them."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME by Henri Arnold



Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: CLOVE AHEAD BESIDE PASTRY
Answer: What the right-wing turned gardener worked on... PLOT

Japan July current account surplus rises to record

TOKYO (R) — Japan's contentious balance of payments surplus widened to a record \$11.82 billion in July from \$9.46 billion a year earlier, the finance ministry said.

Japan is under heavy pressure from the United States and other trade partners to cut its surplus. Economists said failure to come up with ways to redress the imbalance has been behind much of the yen's surge of nearly 20 per cent against the dollar since January.

The paper also cited a secret IMF report advising Riyadh to reduce its budget deficit after it

swelled to more than eight per cent of its gross domestic product.

The deficit was projected at \$7.4 billion in 1993, down from \$8 billion in 1992.

In the absence of other major non-oil income sources, Riyadh was forced to withdraw from its reserves and borrow from the local and foreign markets, creating a public debt of nearly \$17 billion.

The problem was aggravated by huge payments to a U.S.-led coalition that ousted Iraq from Kuwait in February 1991.

According to bankers, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait contributed the bulk of the \$56 billion paid by GCC countries to the war effort.

The Saudi budget deficit is remediable given the country's huge resources. But there is a pressing need for spending cuts and privatisation of some institutions inside and outside the kingdom," a banker said. "Privatisation will have a dual benefit: it will yield funds for the government and enable it to save money because it is paying large subsidies for several institutions to keep them running."

Metric momentum builds and befuddles in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The metric system is about to muscle its way into daily life in the United States for the first time. But will the reluctant finally give in?

As of Feb. 14, a law will require all U.S. consumer packages to size up products in metric terms as well as the inches, feet, ounces and pounds Americans inherited from Britain.

"Either the (overall U.S. conversion) is orderly and good, or it's a mess, but we're headed there," says Gary Carver, the director of the metric programme at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. "The U.S. will be a metric country."

So will Americans have to walk a million kilometres (miles) for one of your smiles? Must they replace their quarter-pounds

with 100-gramburgers? And when it's all over, will they end up 1.8 metres (not six feet) under?

Not without both education in metrics and everyday use, experts say, insisting that it is just a matter of time.

Dominic Cardoso, a 22-year-old student, said it was news to him that metrics would be making a command performance at the supermarket. He studied the system for two years in an exclusive secondary school here, but says he barely remembers it now, because "you don't use it."

Iranian-born Mike Shirazi, an engineer by training who works in a food market, said his customers would not recognise metrics when they make it to the shelves.

Nonetheless, specialists say the momentum for metric change is

building, at least inside the government, due to imperatives of global business.

The United States is the only industrialised country in the world not officially using metrics. The government says only three countries worldwide — the United States, Burma and Liberia — have not embraced the system officially, and Washington wants out of the electric non-metric club.

"In terms of competitiveness, the U.S. has to join the rest of the world," says Bob Easton of the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Consumer Protection.

Back in 1975, Congress passed a metric conversion act meant, the law said, "to coordinate and plan the increasing use of the metric system."

But the voluntary nature of the

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1993

federal agencies slowly are making the transition as required by law, they alone cannot win over more than 250 million people in a country that left behind a king more than 200 years ago but cannot quite let go of the imperial system of measures.

But the little metric secret, Mr. Carver says, is that most people in the United States use goods every day, designed and measured in metrics, without realising it. Most U.S. industries have made the switch, from pharmaceuticals, cars and drinks.

Jennifer Lee, a dry-cleaner originally from South Korea, laughs at the idea of customers asking for clothes alterations in centimetres, but welcomes the change. She already knows her metres and kilos.

Mr. Carver says the Commerce Department reported in April to President Bill Clinton that while

Australia wants APEC to combine features of G-7 and EC

SYDNEY (R) — Australia is pressing to turn the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum into an association with strong executive power like the Group of Seven (G-7) nations, Prime Minister Paul Keating has said.

APEC, an Australian-initiated group formed in 1989, consists of Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, the United States, Canada, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Mr. Keating said the APEC nations represented about 50 per cent of the world's economic output and Australia was still working to turn APEC into a heads-of-government organisation.

An obstacle to such a move is that China considers Taiwan a dependent province and is set to resume control over Hong Kong in 1997.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has proposed an informal meeting of APEC heads of state to coincide with APEC's annual meeting of foreign ministers in Seattle in November.

"We've seen the world move into blocs, in North America and Europe," he said. "We don't particularly want to be in a restricted trading bloc. We want to be in an open, regional arrangement."

APEC, this government, has put together the concept of APEC, and in the last 18 months ... we've done as much as I can possibly do to develop and promote the concept of an Asia-Pacific G-7," Mr. Keating said in a speech.

The G-7 — comprising Canada, the United States, Japan, France, Germany, Italy and Britain — meets regularly to discuss economic and political ties and trading relationships. It is widely viewed as a voice for major industrialised countries.

Speaking at a trade union conference in Sydney, Mr. Keating said Australia also saw APEC turning into an open regional trading bloc similar to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the European Community (EC).

Kohl urges Germans to take a critical look at virtually their entire way of life

SYDNEY (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl told Germans Friday that they needed to make fundamental changes in the way they think and do things to restore their economic competitiveness.

Presenting a report entitled "securing Germany's future as an economic location," he said the country had to produce goods more cheaply and flexibly to meet mounting competition from eastern Europe, Asia and the industrialised world.

"I believe the most important thing that is necessary now — and what I hope for from this paper — is a change in people's heads and a rethink," Mr. Kohl told a news conference. "Quite simply, we must be able to review long-standing habits, break up what has become encrusted and set new priorities."

The 110-page report, which Mr. Kohl described as a sober assessment of the country's situation, urges Germans to take a critical look at virtually their entire way of life. Calling for an overhaul of the economic, welfare and education systems, it says Germans must work harder, retire later, rely more on their own initiative and expect less from the state.

The report is essentially a discussion document but it will be followed in the coming years by legislation on cutting corporate taxes, reducing bureaucracy and other matters.

Major themes include rolling back the role of the state and privatising state-owned companies and utilities.

New proposals include allowing the unemployed to work in return for modest pay on top of their unemployment benefit.

"This would give them more chances of getting back into work and prevent them becoming social outsiders," said Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt, the main author of the report.

Mr. Kohl said Germany's extremely low birth rate and increasing life-expectancy meant action was needed now to ensure that a shrinking workforce would be able to pay the pensions of a growing elderly population in the

future.

He noted that many people only work for around 30 years — completing their studies at 29 or 30 and retiring at 59 — although average life expectancy is approaching 80 years.

"The sums don't add up," Mr. Kohl said.

He said Germany could no longer afford to subsidise declining industries or tolerate excessive bureaucracy. "More money is spent on maintaining uncompetitive industries than is invested in state aid for research and thereby in the future of our country," Mr. Kohl said. "Bureaucracy, complicated administrative procedures and over-long planning and approval periods are making it more difficult to establish modern high-technology industry in Germany."

Mr. Rexrodt said key challenges to German competitive-



Helmut Kohl

ments where financial arrangements are concerned and tonight you see how to invest wisely.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have all kinds of personal disappointment during the day if you try to get your way but tonight everything works out just hunky-dory for you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think about what you can do to tactfully remove obstacles in the path of intense urges during the day, then tonite hit you can have a wonderful time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Decide on evening friends and acquaintances you want to see and contact, make appointments with them after day using care with everyone.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is your evening to go out on the town and have a ball after making sure you've attended to all pressing obligations during daytime.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is the day for you to avoid extending any activities until after the sun goes down when everything works out very much to your benefit.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A misunderstanding could ensue if you get in any disagreement with your mate during the daytime but in the evening a spirit of cooperation prevails.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Don't waste time with regrets or expect friends to grieve with you. Be busy working on hobbies instead and go out socially in the evening without being a bad sport. Don't grumble or be stingy.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can have a number of obstacles in the path of your performance of today's activities during the daytime, try to do the important tasks in the evening.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You do not have the good time during the day that you would like but conditions improve very much in the evening and you can have a ball then.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think about what you can do to eliminate tension and unfortunate conditions at home before you invite interesting guests in for the evening.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) It's advisable to use much care in motion and on the highway during the day but in the evening you can have a fine time at pleasant recreations.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is the daytime for you to make sure you avoid any commit-

THE Daily Crossword

by Kenneth V. Holden



* 1993 Tribune Media Services Inc. All Rights Reserved

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1	Severely	annoy</td
---	----------	-----------

Fussian parliament sues Yeltsin on Rutskoi decree

MOSCOW (AFP) — Parliament overruled President Boris Yeltsin's decree suspending his vice-president and called Friday the high court to judge its legality as the Russian leader argued it was needed to fight corruption.

"Shame on anyone who attempts to defend this decree," Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khatsibulatov said shortly before the conservative legislature voted 141 to 10 in favour of a resolution saying Mr. Yeltsin had overstepped his legal authority.

The appeal to the constitutional court for a ruling on the decree automatically suspended the order under Russian law.

The vote however had been anticipated and political analysts have already predicted a mixed verdict from the court due to the intentionally ambiguous wording of the Yeltsin decree and vagaries in the current constitution.

Mr. Khatsibulatov, who had already described Mr. Yeltsin's decree as a "rude violation" of the constitution, told lawmakers shortly before the vote that there was no question on whether it would be annulled but only on how it would be annulled.

The latest assault from the Soviet-era parliament came two

days after Mr. Yeltsin issued the decree in which he temporarily suspended Mr. Rutskoi and First Deputy Premier Vladimir Shumeiko pending results from corruption probes involving them.

In a last-minute appeal for support from the deputies, Mr. Yeltsin issued a statement Friday asserting that "vicious mutual accusations" among top state leaders were "greatly detrimental to the prestige of the state."

His appeal asserted that "at least some" of the documents presented as evidence to officials investigating charges of corruption against Mr. Rutskoi were grounds for their suspension.

Analysts said Thursday the move was mainly a political attack by Mr. Yeltsin on Mr. Rutskoi, potentially his strongest challenger in any eventual early presidential elections, aimed primarily at tarnishing his reputation.

They noted that Mr. Yeltsin, in his push for early legislative elections that he hopes will weed many of his conservative foes out of parliament, would also likely be forced to accede to early presidential elections.

Yeltsin: Ukraine must be non-nuclear

YALTA, Ukraine (AFP) — Russia cannot accept Ukraine remaining a nuclear power, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said before he began a summit meeting here Friday with Ukrainian counterpart Leonid Kravchuk.

Mr. Yeltsin's remarks, made as he set out from Russia for the talks here and reported by the ITAR-TASS News Agency, referred to Ukraine's decision to retain 46 strategic missiles until 1995.

Russia views the move as a violation of defence agreements by the Commonwealth of Independent States, which groups most of the ex-Soviet republics.

Despite international pressure, the Ukrainian parliament has failed to ratify the Strategic Arms

Reduction Treaty (START I) signed in 1991 by the Soviet Union and the United States.

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Kravchuk are expected to discuss U.S. offers to help with dismantling the weapons, Ukrainian sources said.

They added that Mr. Kravchuk might pay an official visit to Washington this month.

As the two presidents began their meeting in Massandra, near Yalta, the Crimean resort town in the south of Ukraine, Mr. Kravchuk stressed that the interests of Crimea, an autonomous republic within Ukraine, should be taken into account in any discussion of the Black Sea Fleet, Interfax News Agency said.

Russia and Ukraine previously agreed to share out the fleet equally, with both parliaments

Chamorro seeks army chief's removal

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua's President Violeta Chamorro said she hoped to name a replacement for controversial Sandinista military chief General Humberto Ortega next year.

She also signed a decree, effective immediately, removing the office of military intelligence from army control in order to place it under the presidency, announced plans to establish a five-year term for future army chiefs and said she would change the name of the Sandinista People's Army.

"My desire is ... to name a new chief in command of the army next year," she said in a speech at

a military ceremony.

Her proposal provoked a sharp response from military leaders who said that only the military council, a body of top army officers, can name a new chief.

Major General Joaquin Cuadra, at a news conference, told reporters that the military intended to retain that right, but insisted that their position did not imply a threat of action against the president.

"Here there is absolutely no insubordination ... there is strict devotion to the law," he said.

The government's official Radio Nicaragua Thursday evening said that Mrs. Chamorro had

convened an emergency meeting of her cabinet to discuss the military's position.

Mrs. Chamorro's actions appeared to be a reply to pressure from members of the U.S. Congress, her own conservative supporters and reformed contra rebels to remove Gen. Ortega from his post and reduce leftist Sandinista influence over her government.

In Washington, Secretary of State Warren Christopher applauded Mrs. Chamorro's moves, calling them "bold steps towards reasserting civilian control over the military and intelligence service."

Russia, U.S. sign technology pacts

WASHINGTON (R) — Russia and the United States, abandoning the last vestiges of cold war hostility, signed wide-ranging agreements Thursday that included cooperation on an international space station.

"It is time to leave behind the vestiges of the cold war and reach for a new partnership between the United States and Russia," Vice President Al Gore said.

Russia also agreed to stick to international guidelines on exporting missile technology, clearing the way for a new era of high-technology cooperation.

"Russia has agreed to observe the principles of the missile technology control regime, which is something the United States very much appreciates," U.S. President Bill Clinton said.

Nigeria government faces pro-Abiola pressures

LAGOS (R) — Fuel shortages stopped many Nigerians from returning to work Friday after the main trade union group suspended a six-day-long strike for democratic rule.

Major cities in this West African country stayed paralysed as oil workers continued a strike in support of Moshood Abiola, the undeclared winner of the annulled June 12 presidential election.

The action by the oil workers exacerbated a long-standing petrol shortage in Africa's most populous country, a week after Nigeria's former military rulers installed an interim government headed by industrialist Ernest Shonekan.

On Thursday, the United States and Canada reaffirmed their opposition to the annulment of the June election.

The United States said it did not intend to lift sanctions against Nigeria until the interim government agreed to a quick return to democracy.

It imposed the limited sanctions after military ruler General Ibrahim Babangida annulled the June ballot. Local and foreign observers had deemed the election free and fair.

160 states seek tougher stand against war crimes

GENEVA (USIA) — Representatives of some 160 governments attending a conference on the protection of war victims in Geneva called on the international community to "ensure that war crimes are duly prosecuted and do not go unpunished."

Delegates to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims adopted a draft declaration Sept. 1 condemning increasingly widespread violations of humanitarian law, especially violence against civilians.

Warren Zimmermann, the director of the State Department's Bureau for Refugee Programmes, said he believes the conference succeeded in focusing international attention on the plight of war victims.

"I think we are seeing a new level of violence and savagery that we have not seen in a long time," the former U.S. ambassador to Yugoslavia said in an interview following the conference.

He attributed the increase in violence in part to the rise of nationalism, "which is in itself a kind of doctrine which creates hostility to other national groups."

Mr. Zimmermann led the U.S. delegation to the three-day conference, which was convened by the Swiss government and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The conference's final declaration reaffirms the principles of humanitarian law embodied in the 1949 Geneva Conventions — international treaties intended to safeguard respect for both combatants and civilians in times of conflict.

It calls on governments to take "resolute action" against states "bearing responsibility for violations of international humanitarian law."

The Swiss government, the depository state of the Geneva con-

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1993

Turkey boosts troops at Armenian border

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey has stepped up movements of troops and armoured vehicles in border regions with Armenia and Iran in order to boost security for itself and neighbouring Azerbaijan, sources close to military headquarters here said.

Reconnaissance and surveillance flights had also been increased, the sources said. The troops were from the Third Army based at Erzincan with responsibility for eastern defences, and from garrisons in Van facing Iran.

The military activity followed a session of the National Security Council late Thursday chaired here by President Suleyman Demirel.

The council, without being specific, announced supplementary measures for the preservation of peace and stability in the region "and for the protection of the security of Turkey and of the independence and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan."

A communiqué said escalation of Armenian attacks was "seriously threatening" peace and stability in the Caucasus. It warned that the current fighting could become more widespread and have repercussions on other countries unless Armenia pulled out immediately and unconditionally from territory it had occupied in Azerbaijan...

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and her deputy Erdal Inonu attended the Security Council session, along with the defence, interior and foreign ministers and the deputy chief of the general staff.

An earlier cabinet meeting said the government was "concerned" about the continued occupation of Azerbaijani territory by Armenian forces and by a concentration of Iranian troops near the Azerbaijani frontier.

Government spokesman Yildirim Akman said the developments were of a nature to imperil regional peace. It was the responsibility of all the region's states to keep the peace, he said, since any regional conflict would cause difficulties for them all.

Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said he had no confirmation of local press reports that Iranian troops had apparently entered Azerbaijan.

In Moscow Thursday, ITAR-TASS had quoted Robert Kocharyan, chairman of the Defence Committee of Azerbaijan's Armenian-majority secessionist enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, as saying that Armenian forces in southwest Azerbaijan had "visually observed" Iranian troops crossing the border into Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan immediately denied the reports, with Iskender Allahkhverdiev, commander of Azerbaijani Border Guards, saying no Iranian troops had crossed the Arax River into southwest Azerbaijani territory, according to ITAR-TASS.

But Azerbaijan joined Russia and Turkey in warning that the buildup of forces in that region were raising tension, news agencies were reported.

Japan's (LDP) plays cupid to woo the young

TOKYO (AFP) — The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), spurned by Japanese voters after four decades in power, is wooing the young with a "lonely hearts" club.

The party's branch in Kanagawa, south of Tokyo, is to open an exclusive club named the Liberty Club next month offering matchmaking services to members desperately seeking a spouse. The charge is cheap compared with two-hour concert organised by the City of Paris. Police banned cars from the area and the Paris Transport Authority laid on extra underground trains. No incidents were reported.

Government spokesman Yildirim Akman said the developments were of a nature to imperil regional peace. It was the responsibility of all the region's states to keep the peace, he said, since any regional conflict would cause difficulties for them all.

Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said he had no confirmation of local press reports that Iranian troops had apparently entered Azerbaijan.

In Moscow Thursday, ITAR-TASS had quoted Robert Kocharyan, chairman of the Defence Committee of Azerbaijan's Armenian-majority secessionist enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, as saying that Armenian forces in southwest Azerbaijan had "visually observed" Iranian troops crossing the border into Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan immediately denied the reports, with Iskender Allahkhverdiev, commander of Azerbaijani Border Guards, saying no Iranian troops had crossed the Arax River into southwest Azerbaijani territory, according to ITAR-TASS.

But Azerbaijan joined Russia and Turkey in warning that the buildup of forces in that region were raising tension, news agencies were reported.

Azerbaijan's Acting President Gidar Aliyev also called Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati late Thursday, urging Tehran to continue its warnings to Armenia to "stop its aggression" against Azerbaijan, Iranian state-run radio in Tehran said.

Tehran, which fears the Armenian offensive could jeopardise its security and unleash a wave of refugees into Iran, launched a series of diplomatic initiatives last week to bring international pressure on Yerevan to accept a ceasefire with Baku and return to its recognised borders.

It came after Armenian separatists launched a new offensive against Azerbaijani territory last month, seizing control of strategic towns near the Iranian border to the south.

Meanwhile, the United States has pledged \$1 million each to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide humanitarian assistance in response to the growing number of displaced persons in Azerbaijan.

The donation, extended in late August, is the latest effort by the Clinton administration, hampered by legislative restrictions, to find new ways to provide Azerbaijan with humanitarian assistance to deal with its growing refugee problems, according to administration officials.

The \$2 million donation was followed on Aug. 27 by an emergency flight of about 4,200 U.S. blankets to Azerbaijan. And, U.S. officials say, there are plans to provide additional assistance to Azerbaijani displaced persons through private voluntary organisations under a grant to Save the Children.

Man charged for registering his dog to vote

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP) — Remington Steele, Stephen's dog, was listed on a voter registration card as a Libertarian with the profession of "house watcher." Riverside County officials know him better as Charles Stephens' dog. And although Remington never cast a ballot, Charles is in trouble with the law. On Wednesday, he was charged with a misdemeanor count of filing an affidavit of registration for a nonexistent person, punishable by a \$1,000 fine and one year in jail. Mr. Stephens, a Democrat, insists that prosecutors are barking up the wrong tree. "It was all done here at home in jest and got accidentally sent in," he said. The county register of voters Frank Johnson says authorities must keep folks like Mr. Stephens on a short leash. "It undermines the system," Mr. Johnson said.

Pavarotti holds concert beside Eiffel Tower

PARIS (AP) — Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti sang for tens of thousands of mesmerised fans crammed next to Paris' Eiffel Tower for one of his favourite rockstar-like outdoor concerts. Some 14,000 people paid 100 to 1,000 francs (\$17-170) for a seat. But tens of thousands more flocked for free and watched him on a giant screen on a balmy evening, some staking out space on the Champ-de-Mars lawn hours before Pavarotti came on stage. The burly tenor, 40 kilometres thinner, sang arias from Bizet's Carmen, Verdi's Luisa Miller, Rossini's William Tell and Puccini's Tosca. A few hours before the concert, broadcast live on the pay channel Canal Plus, the 57-year-old tenor pledged to give proceeds from a future concert to the fight against AIDS. Pavarotti started mass outdoor concerts in San Francisco's Golden Park in 1975. He performed for 150,000 rain-soaked fans in London's Hyde Park two years ago, and for half a million music lovers in New York's Central Park last June.

"So much the better if there are many, very many (spectators)," he told the French newspaper Le Parisien. Official guests included entertainment stars, business tycoons and 14 cabinet ministers. In the free area, pensioners, young couples holding babies, beer-drinking students and leather-clad youths on motorbikes mingled in silent admiration during the two-hour concert organised by the City of Paris. Police banned cars from the area and the Paris Transport Authority laid on extra underground trains. No incidents were reported.

Japan's (LDP) plays cupid to woo the young

TOKYO (AFP) — The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), spurned by Japanese voters after four decades in power, is wooing the young with a "lonely hearts" club.

The party's branch in Kanagawa, south of Tokyo, is to open an exclusive club named the Liberty Club next month offering matchmaking services to members desperately seeking a spouse. The charge is cheap compared with two-hour concert organised by the City of Paris. Police banned cars from the area and the Paris Transport Authority laid on extra underground trains. No incidents were reported.

Azerbaijan's Acting President Gidar Aliyev also called Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati late Thursday, urging Tehran to continue its warnings to Armenia to "stop its aggression" against Azerbaijan, Iranian state-run radio in Tehran said.

Tehran, which fears the Armenian offensive could jeopardise its security and unleash a wave of refugees into Iran, launched a series of diplomatic initiatives last week to bring international pressure on Yerevan to accept a ceasefire with Baku and return to its recognised borders.

It came after Armenian separatists launched a new offensive against Azerbaijani territory last month, seizing control of strategic towns near the Iranian border to the south.

Meanwhile, the United States has pledged \$1 million each to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide humanitarian assistance in response to the growing number of displaced persons in Azerbaijan.

The donation, extended in late August, is the latest effort by the Clinton administration, hampered by legislative restrictions, to find new ways to provide Azerbaijan with humanitarian assistance to deal with its growing refugee problems, according to administration officials.

The \$2 million donation was followed on Aug. 27 by an emergency flight of about 4,200 U.S. blankets to Azerbaijan. And, U.S. officials say, there are plans to provide additional assistance to Azerbaijani displaced persons through private voluntary organisations under a grant to Save the Children.



5 killed as S. Africa's Peace Day ends

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Three men were killed near a workers' hostel near Johannesburg and two were shot dead in the city centre while South Africans of all races were marking the final hours of National Peace Day.

Police said Friday they did not know the motive for the Thursday night killings of the three men at Duduza, southeast of the South African commercial capital.

Earlier in the day, police said the level of violence on Peace Day was well below the national daily average of 20 murders during July and August.

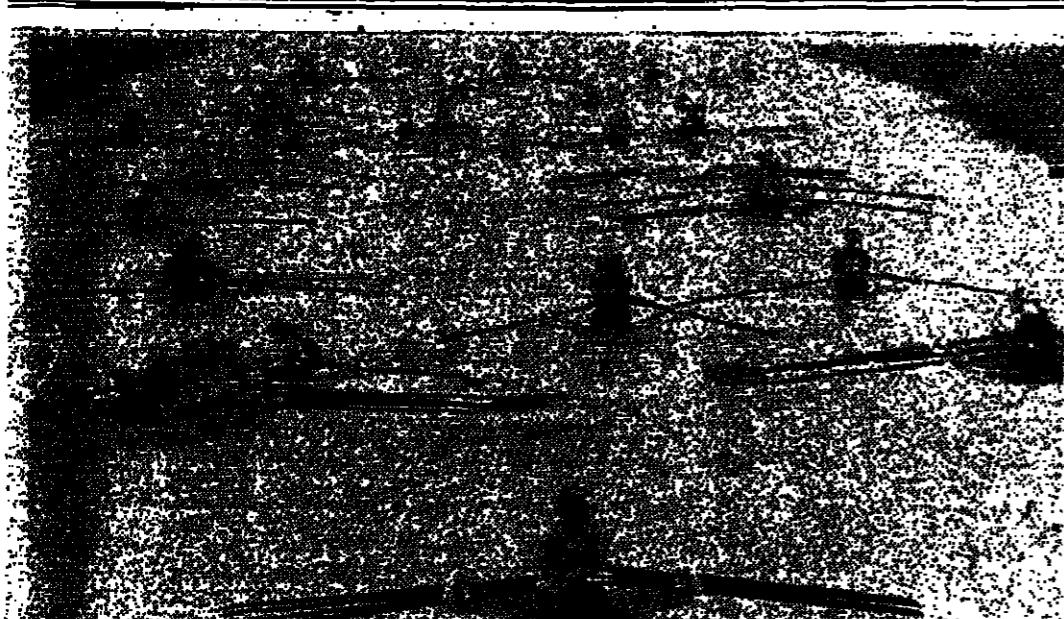
Hawkish Law And Order Minister Herman Kiel said the comparatively low level of violence Thursday proved there was a willingness to bring about lasting peace.

"Peace Day was nothing short of a miracle and shows that the community, when it stands together in a common cause, can end violence effectively," Mr. Kiel said in a statement.

"This happened on Peace Day, can you believe it," a police spokesman told Reuters, adding that no motive had been established.

Despite the killings, the police said the level of violence on Peace Day was well below the national daily average of 20 murders during July and August.

Police said Friday they did not know the motive for the Thursday night killings of the three men at Duduza, southeast of the South



Participants in the World Rowing Championships crowd the River Radlice near Prague, in preparation for the upcoming finals (AFP photo).

Kasparov courts conflict on and off the board

LONDON (AFP) — Champion Gary Kasparov, the world's strongest ever chess player who will defend his title against British challenger Nigel Short in London next week, has courted conflict and tension both on and off the board.

Speaking at a press conference at the luxury Savoy Hotel where the match will take place, Kasparov recalled the "very unpleasant" treatment he received from Soviet officials before his match against his predecessor as world champion Anatoly Karpov in 1985.

Soviet officials "really did not want me to beat Karpov," Kasparov said. "They felt I was an alien."

Unlike Karpov, whom he has accused of being an apparatchik of the Communist system, Kasparov, aged 30, has an unconventional background: A Russian national, he was born into a half-Jewish and half-Armenian family in the Azerbaijani capital Baku April 13, 1963.

As Garry Kimovich Weinstein, he first started moving pieces on a chessboard in 1969, and adopted the family name of his mother Klara Kasparova after his father died the following year.

Kasparov won the Soviet junior chess championship in 1976 at the age of 13.

Thirteen has been Kasparov's lucky number since he defeated Karpov in 1985, becoming the 13th and youngest ever world champion in the history of chess at the age of 22.

The victory did not come easily. Florencio Campomanes, the president of the World Chess Federation (FIDE), suspended the marathon match in Moscow after five months, with Karpov 5-3 ahead but said to be physically and emotionally drained.

Kasparov had to wait for a rematch in Moscow six months later to beat his arch-rival and win the coveted title. Since then he has dominated world chess utterly.

Wanted: Aggressive referees for Japan's soccer league

TOKYO (AP) — Saburokatsu Kawabuchi, chairman of Japan's fledgling pro soccer league, isn't worried about attendance, which is terrific, or revenues, which have surpassed all expectations.

His league, in fact, has just a few months become a bona fide national craze. So what's the problem?

"I think refs. ... He tell them to go ahead and give out cards when some player sets out of line," said Kawabuchi, head of the 10-team J. League, Japan's first truly professional soccer league.

"We encourage them to be more aggressive," he said Friday. "But they are too cautious."

The level of officiating at J. League games has come under fire because of a number of ques-

Tapie threatens to quit

PARIS (AFP) — The president of Olympique Marseille, Bernard Tapie, has threatened to quit if his embattled club is kicked out of the European Champion Cup because of match-fixing allegations.

Tapie also said he would quit if the allegations, that two men from his club tried to bribe three players from Valencia before a crucial league match May 20 last season, were proved to be true.

"Taking OM out of Europe would kill the club," the millionaire businessman told Friday's edition of French daily Liberation. "As for me, I'd stop. I don't have a staff and budget that could live without the European Champions Cup."

The menace has been hovering above the above cup holders all week, since the sport's ruling body worldwide, FIFA, warned the French Federation to make a decision over the corruption affair by September 23.

Tapie's appearance in this season's tournament, which starts later this month, will be discussed in Zurich Monday at a meeting of football's governing body in Europe, UEFA.

FIFA and UEFA officials are becoming exasperated at the time taken to resolve the corruption affair.

But as enquiries by the civil authorities are continuing, Tapie says that Marseille risks being punished unfairly.

"It means that OM would be killed without being sure of the facts. And in six months time, if we're not guilty?" he asked.

Alcindo, infuriated by Yamada's decision to show fellow Brazilian Zico the yellow card for slapping an opponent, shoved a ball in Yamada's chest during a game, but the referee did not punish him.

Alcindo, who is 25 and plays for the Kashima Antlers, then followed Yamada to his room after the game to continue his tirade. The league later suspended him for four games.

Kawabuchi noted that soccer is only a part-time job for many of the officials, making them feel a bit out of their league when confronted by well-known players.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH

GYPSY TRAVELING SHOWS, INC.

PESSIMISM PAYS

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH

6 10 6
5 A Q 10 8 4
2 4 2 1
4 K J 9

EAST

4 K Q 8

4 A 9

5 7 3

5 10 9 5 2

4 J 10 9 5

4 2 4 2

4 6 4

4 K 10 5

WEST

4 K Q 8

4 A 9

5 7 3

5 10 9 5 2

4 J 10 9 5

4 2 4 2

4 6 4

4 K 10 5

SOUTH

4 A 9

5 7 3

5 10 9 5 2

4 J 10 9 5

4 2 4 2

4 6 4

4 K 10 5

The bidding:

South: West: North: East:

1 2 Pass: 2 5 Pass

2 4 Pass: 3 NT Pass

4 6 Pass: Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♦

Don't confuse the impossible with the improbable. Looking only at the North-South hands, it's hard to believe that declarer went down at a four-spade contract. But that's exactly what happened.

For those who play a two-over-one response create a game force, a two-spade force relayed by North would be adequate. That would make no difference to the final contract. South would rebid three spades and North would raise to game.

Declarer won the first trick in hand and bunged out the ace of spades. When East showed out, declarer could not avoid losing three trump tricks in the fullness of time — down one.

In duplicate, that play would be correct, since it would fail only on those rare occasions when trumps split 4-0, and would produce a valuable overtrick whenever a defender has a singleton honor. At rubber bridge, declarer should have resorted to a safety play to guarantee no more than two losers in the trump suit.

After winning the diamond lead in the closed hand, South should fire out a low trump toward the ten. If West follows low, declarer inserts the ten and, whether it wins or loses, the defender will score only two trump tricks. As the cards lie, West must go up with an honor. Upon regaining the lead, declarer can then play the ten of spades, and the declarer again get only two tricks.

Only a win in Sunday's South America Group A match will make sure that Argentina qualify automatically for the finals.

A draw would mean they finished second and had to play off against Australia over two legs for the right to go to the finals, while a defeat would leave them depending on Paraguay's result in Peru for second spot.

Columbia need only a draw to guarantee first place and automatic World Cup qualification.

Brazil face Venezuela in another World Cup qualifier Sunday intent on giving the no-hoppers yet another thrashing.

Brazil's probable victory would leave them level on points with Bolivia at the top of the group.

Two teams go through from the group which also includes Ecuador and Uruguay, who meet in Guayaquil Sunday.

U.S. Open

Edberg exit opens way for Sampras

NEW YORK (AFP) — Stefan Edberg's bid for a third consecutive U.S. Open crown ended Thursday when the Swede succumbed to unseeded Czech Karel Novacek in four sets.

Edberg, who had to battle through a marathon five-set first-round encounter Tuesday, looked like pulling off another great escape after dropping the first two sets.

But Novacek kept his nerve to win 7-6 (7/3), 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in three hours and six minutes.

It marked only the third time in the Open era that a defending champion had lost as early as the second round.

In 1989, Pete Sampras ousted defending champion Mats Wilander in the second-round, and in 1973, Andrew Patterson beat Ilie Nastase — also in the second-round.

Edberg's loss continued a startling run of upsets in the men's singles.

Five seeded men lost in the first round — Andre Agassi, Sergi Bruguera, Michael Stich, Petr Korda and Ivan Lendl.

Fourth-seeded German Boris Becker stopped the rot by coming back to score a 3-6, 6-7 (6/10), 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Russian Andrei Cherkasov in a match that took more than a day to complete.

The two first went on court Wednesday night, but played just two points, to 15-all before rain stopped play.

On Thursday, Becker trailed Cherkasov 6-3, 7-6 (10/8), 7-5 when another spell of drizzle interrupted. They came back after a 90 minute delay and completed the match — four days after the event began.

The poor scheduling left Becker fuming. He faced a second-round match the next day against Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek.

Becker said the second-set tiebreak could have gone either way, but Cherkasov hit a couple of shots off the corners in the tie-break that finished it off.

He said he started to feel the momentum swing his way at 5-4 in the third.

"I thought I played the best probably the fourth set," he said. "I was up a break early. I was feeling pretty relaxed."

Edberg's departure was a boon for 1990 champion Sampras, who was in the same half as the Swede Andre Agassi.

Sampras advanced to the third



Ivan Lendl of the U.S. stands by the net as the umpire announces his withdrawal from the match against Australia's Neil Borwick due to knee injury (AFP photo).

round with 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (7/3) win over unseeded Czech Daniel Vacek.

In the same half, 12th-seeded Austrian Thomas Muster and number-14 Alexander Volkov of Russia advanced safely.

Muster, who suffered a devastating knee injury when he was hit by a car in 1989, beat American Aaron Krickstein 6-4, 6-0, 6-3, and Volkov beat South African Kevin Ullyett 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/4), 6-1, 6-3.

Second-seeded Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez followed number-one Steffi Graf into the third-round of the women's singles when she made short work of American Linda Harvey-Wild 6-2, 6-2.

Third-seeded Martina Navratilova defeated Sabine Appelmanns of Belgium 6-1, 6-3.

Sale up to 25%



Abdoun Circle

Seles ranking to drop

NEW YORK (AP) — Monica Seles, sidelined since being stabbed in the back at a tournament in Hamburg, Germany, April 30, will fall to fourth in the world when the next computer rankings are released.

Seles will lose the computer points she received for winning the U.S. Open last year, while Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Martina Navratilova, both in the third round of this year's final Grand Slam tournament, will pass the former world's top player.

Regardless of who wins the U.S. Open, now being played at the National Tennis Centre, Steffi Graf will remain No. 1 in the world on the Virginia Slims computer. Graf also has reached the third round.

The women's tour chose not to freeze Seles' ranking, and Seles is bitter about the decision.

"I lost the ranking without playing a match," she said last week. "It was very hard and the main reason is because the person who did this to me, stabbed me

for that reason and pretty much got his wish in that sense."

Seles' attacker, an avid Graf fan, wanted the German star to return to No. 1. Graf regained the top spot when she won Wimbledon in July.

U.S. Open notebook

Happy birthday, Jimmy: For the first time in a long time, there was no September 2 birthday match for Jimmy Connors at the U.S. Open.

Connors, who turned 41 Thursday, skipped the Open for only the second time in 23 years.

He was spotted at the National Tennis Centre, but as a birthday treat to himself took the day off from answering questions.

Slams the key for Sampras: Winning Wimbledon, three years after his surprise U.S. Open victory in 1990, reminded Pete Sampras just how much winning a Grand Slam means.

REQUIRED

Experienced, part-time teachers of:

English as a foreign language applicants must have English as a first language. For further details please call: (643198-643199) daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

SECOND FLOOR FOR RENT

A brand new, complete floor of 320 sq.m., consisting of four bedrooms and accessories is now available for rent in a quiet residential area in Sweileh. Tel. available. For information please call Dr. Faris at 823855 all day.

FOR RENT SEMI-FURNISHED APARTMENT

3 bedrooms, dining, living, guest rooms. With telephone. Location: Gardens, behind United Nations Offices. Please call tel: 682722

VILLA FOR RENT OR SALE

Excellent location in Sweileh. Master bedroom suite, 4 bedrooms, living room, family room and office room, big kitchen and a drawing room. Fireplace, central heating, A.C. in bedrooms. Built-in Bar, B.Q. outside, with nice landscaping. Tel. Installed. Please call 715720 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

DUTY UNPAID CAR FOR SALE

HONDA ACCORD EXi, Model 1991, 16-valve/fuel injection, metallic grey with full options including Air Cond.; power steering and brake; electric windows, sunroof, driver

Serbs reject U.S. warning, say they have no role in war

Negotiators raise concern over talks collapse

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on Friday brushed aside a U.S. warning that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) could intervene against Serbs in the Bosnian conflict if it intensified after the breakdown of peace talks.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, primarily targeting Croats and Serbs fighting "Muslims" in the former Yugoslav republic, said the "NATO military option is very much alive."

Mr. Karadzic denied any Bosnian Serb involvement in current fighting which is mainly between Muslim and Croat forces trying to gain territory in southern and central Bosnia.

"I think someone is misinforming President Clinton," Mr. Karadzic told Reuters in Belgrade. "The Serbs are not in the war any longer. We haven't fought the Croats for five months. We didn't fight against the Muslims except for some border incidents."

Mr. Clinton issued his warning after talks between Muslim, Serb and Croat leaders with international negotiators in Geneva failed to produce agreement on Muslim demands for more land.

He specifically mentioned any new attacks on the Bosnian capital Sarajevo, which has been under Serb artillery-siege throughout the 17-month civil war, or interference with U.N. aid convoys.

The likeliest form of intervention would be air strikes.

A U.S. air base at Aviano in

northern Italy, where U.S. aircraft enforcing "no fly" zone over Bosnia, was attacked during the night by gunmen who fired on a dormitory.

There were no casualties and the unidentified attackers escaped but Italian authorities tightened security around the base.

A peace plan on which the warring communities are now being coaxed to reopen negotiations allocated 30 per cent of Bosnia to Muslims, 52 per cent to Serbs and the rest to Croats.

U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia voiced public concern that the collapse of the Geneva negotiations could give fresh impetus to the fighting as all three sides grab for more territory.

Claims by the Muslims for more living space and guaranteed access to the Adriatic Sea have been given strong U.S. support in statements by Secretary of State Warren Christopher and other senior officials as well as by Mr. Clinton.

At the same time, Washington has been taking a tougher line with Croatia whose army has been monitored by the U.N. reinforcing Bosnian Croat forces despite repeated denials from Zagreb.

Mr. Christopher said in a message to Serbia and Croatia: "We think that if the settlement breaks down because of the stubbornness, the intransigence of the Serbs or Croatians, the world community will certainly hold them responsible."

All three sides reported clashes

on Thursday and Friday but there was no evidence of fighting on the scale the U.N. feared.

Fighting in central Bosnia blocked fuel from reaching the capital Friday, but most of the republic was quiet as the warring sides weighed their response to the breakdown of Geneva peace talks.

U.N. officials in the Bosnian capital said high-priority facilities such as the city bakery were running short of diesel fuel because of clashes to the west, in the region of Gornji Vakuf, where Muslims and Croats are fighting for territory.

A convoy carrying diesel was stalled because of the fighting, said Ray Wilkerson, a Sarajevo spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

The trucks would provide Sarajevo with its first diesel fuel shipment in a month.

U.N. peacekeeper's spokesman Idebal van Biesbroeck said most of the republic remained peaceful overnight.

U.N. representative Cedri Thornberry expressed concern Wednesday that there was a "real possibility" of renewed fighting that could last through the winter.

Mr. Thornberry has spent most of the past two weeks in southwestern Bosnia supervising talks between the Muslim-led government and Bosnian Croats on opening an aid corridor through embattled Mostar — the main land route for aid to central Bosnia and Sarajevo.

Claims by the Muslims for more living space and guaranteed access to the Adriatic Sea have been given strong U.S. support in statements by Secretary of State Warren Christopher and other senior officials as well as by Mr. Clinton.

At the same time, Washington has been taking a tougher line with Croatia whose army has been monitored by the U.N. reinforcing Bosnian Croat forces despite repeated denials from Zagreb.

Mr. Christopher said in a message to Serbia and Croatia: "We think that if the settlement breaks down because of the stubbornness, the intransigence of the Serbs or Croatians, the world community will certainly hold them responsible."

All three sides reported clashes



Hamas supporters wave a Palestinian flag during a demonstration after the Friday noon prayer in Jerusalem's Old City against the Gaza-Jericho (AP photo)

Supporters, opponents of autonomy plan lobby Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Supporters and opponents of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel accord on limited Palestinian self-rule have one thing in common: They are both campaigning urgently to win over the deeply divided Palestinian population.

Faisal Husseini, the top PLO leader in the occupied territories, has chosen to remain in Jerusalem rather than attend the 11th round of Middle East peace in order to canvass for support for the accord.

On Thursday Mr. Husseini met diplomats and representatives of international organisations in the Holy City to brief them on the accord for autonomy starting in Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jenin.

Mr. Husseini gathered his aides at his Jerusalem headquarters in Orient House on Tuesday, on his return from PLO headquarters in Tunis, to spell out the main points of the secret deal which was hammered out in Oslo, Norway.

The following day he met representatives of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), two factions which are strongly opposed to the autonomy plan.

Petra said that Jordan was expected to ask Austria for more soft loans to help finance several development projects.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassen said that the Austrian leader's visit reflected the excellent relations between the two countries.

King Hussein has always displayed a keenness to bolstering Jordan's ties with Austria and promoting bilateral cooperation in political, economic and cultural fields, said the minister in a statement to Petra. He said that Austrian-Jordanian relations have always been based on mutual understanding, friendship and respect.

President Kieslil will arrive in Amman Saturday afternoon for a 24-hour official visit at the invitation of His Majesty King Hussein, Mr. Stiglauer said.

It is the first trip to any Arab country and the first outside

Europe by the Austrian president, who was elected last year, said the ambassador.

He noted that Austria had granted Jordan nearly \$10 million to help it buy machinery for a potash project, equipment for vocational training and civil defence facilities and medicines.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Austria had offered Jordan \$9 million in the wake of the Gulf crisis to help the country overcome difficulties resulting from the Gulf war, and that Austria has continually granted Jordan soft loans for development projects.

Asked whether Austria would offer Jordan additional loans, the ambassador said the Austrian government has not been approached in this respect.

In indirect help to Jordan Austria made donations to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to build schools in the Kingdom, noting that Austria is a party to the Paris

Club which is helping Jordan reschedule its debts to the western countries.

According to Petra, Jordan last year imported \$22.7 million worth of Austrian goods and exported relatively insignificant amounts in return.

Petra said that Jordan was expected to ask Austria for more soft loans to help finance several development projects.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassen said that the Austrian leader's visit reflected the excellent relations between the two countries.

King Hussein has always displayed a keenness to bolstering Jordan's ties with Austria and promoting bilateral cooperation in political, economic and cultural fields, said the minister in a statement to Petra. He said that Austrian-Jordanian relations have always been based on mutual understanding, friendship and respect.

Ryad Maliki, a Palestinian with close links to the PFLP, said that what Mr. Husseini told him "did not make me change his mind."

The DFLP and the PFLP were among 10 Palestinian factions which have said that the accord "does not reflect the will of the Palestinian people." They urged Arab states to back their fight against Israel.

Yasser Arafat's Fatah, the PLO's mainstream group, and other factions close to the Palestinian leader have meanwhile organised rallies across the West Bank and Gaza Strip in support of the accord.

Police face huge task

The new Palestinian police force had an early insight into the mighty task it faces when Islamic fundamentalists attacked a rally in support of the autonomy accord and left 15 PLO supporters wounded.

Intemecine clashes like those in a Gaza refugee camp on Wednesday night are routine, particularly on the Strip where Palestinians summarily execute Palestinians almost daily in a climate of lawlessness.

The Israeli army, reluctant to intervene in such battles, has counted nearly 900 extra-judicial killings of Arabs by Arabs since the intifada erupted in December 1987. Most were suspected of being with Jordanian forces.

But in addition to these concerns Jordan is unhappy with the arrangement because it "conflicts with the basic thinking of King Hussein who wanted a comprehensive solution (to the Arab-Israeli conflict)," said a former official who is familiar with Jordan's policy towards the Palestinian conflict.

He said the King has always believed that the Arabs should not enter any agreements with Israel without establishing what the final solution would be. The Gaza-Jericho accord does not do that, he said.

"(The King) wanted to see the end of the tunnel. He was never at ease with the idea of a transitional period."

The idea of a transitional period first surfaced with the signing of the Camp David agreement in 1979, replacing the demand for a clear implementation of U.N. Security Council resolution 242.

"Autonomy for the Palestinians in an Israeli idea which was first proposed by (former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem) Begin," the former official maintained, adding that Jordan could not stop this option from taking root since the PLO, the representative of the Palestinian people, accepted it.

Furthermore, Jordan is not opposed to the Gaza-Jericho accord, which one analyst termed "a municipal agreement that cannot lead to the realisation of the Palestinian people's rights, because it supports the decision of the PLO," a well-placed observer said.

Jordan, however, hopes the PLO will be able to contain the divisions among the Palestinians on the accord because any instability in Gaza or Jericho can spill over to Jordan.

"Any (inter-) Palestinian differences would have negative impact on Jordan. But (I hope) that these differences would disappear, especially after the establishment of a Palestinian entity," Dr. Majali told AFP.

COLUMN

Researchers find brain swells after heart bypass

LONDON (R) — Using a special scanning technique, British researchers have shown for the first time that the brain swells shortly after coronary bypass surgery, a medical journal reported Friday. The Lancet said the discovery may explain why two per cent of bypass patients have a stroke and up to 57 per cent suffer from some form of neurological complication. "These are the first reported scans done within an hour of surgery," Dr. David Harris of the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in London reported in the journal. Previous scans which were less sensitive and done one to four weeks after the operation did not show any swelling. But Harris and his colleagues used MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) which found that the brains of six men aged 57 to 72 swelled soon after their bypass surgery but not before the operation or six to 18 days after.

The Lancet said the discovery may explain why two per cent of bypass patients have a stroke and up to 57 per cent suffer from some form of neurological complication. "These are the first reported scans done within an hour of surgery," Dr. David Harris of the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in London reported in the journal. Previous scans which were less sensitive and done one to four weeks after the operation did not show any swelling. But Harris and his colleagues used MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) which found that the brains of six men aged 57 to 72 swelled soon after their bypass surgery but not before the operation or six to 18 days after.

On Thursday Mr. Husseini met diplomats and representatives of international organisations in the Holy City to brief them on the accord for autonomy starting in Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jenin.

Mr. Husseini gathered his aides at his Jerusalem headquarters in Orient House on Tuesday, on his return from PLO headquarters in Tunis, to spell out the main points of the secret deal which was hammered out in Oslo, Norway.

The following day he met representatives of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), two factions which are strongly opposed to the autonomy plan.

"I informed the opposition of the details of the agreement," Mr. Husseini later said, adding that he would also meet leaders of the hardline Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas.

Ryad Maliki, a Palestinian with close links to the PFLP, said that what Mr. Husseini told him "did not make me change his mind."

The DFLP and the PFLP were among 10 Palestinian factions which have said that the accord "does not reflect the will of the Palestinian people." They urged Arab states to back their fight against Israel.

Yasser Arafat's Fatah, the PLO's mainstream group, and other factions close to the Palestinian leader have meanwhile organised rallies across the West Bank and Gaza Strip in support of the accord.

Police face huge task

The new Palestinian police force had an early insight into the mighty task it faces when Islamic fundamentalists attacked a rally in support of the autonomy accord and left 15 PLO supporters wounded.

Intemecine clashes like those in a Gaza refugee camp on Wednesday night are routine, particularly on the Strip where Palestinians summarily execute Palestinians almost daily in a climate of lawlessness.

The Israeli army, reluctant to intervene in such battles, has counted nearly 900 extra-judicial killings of Arabs by Arabs since the intifada erupted in December 1987. Most were suspected of being with Jordanian forces.

But in addition to these concerns Jordan is unhappy with the arrangement because it "conflicts with the basic thinking of King Hussein who wanted a comprehensive solution (to the Arab-Israeli conflict)," said a former official who is familiar with Jordan's policy towards the Palestinian conflict.

He said the King has always believed that the Arabs should not enter any agreements with Israel without establishing what the final solution would be. The Gaza-Jericho accord does not do that, he said.

"(The King) wanted to see the end of the tunnel. He was never at ease with the idea of a transitional period."

The idea of a transitional period first surfaced with the signing of the Camp David agreement in 1979, replacing the demand for a clear implementation of U.N. Security Council resolution 242.

"Autonomy for the Palestinians in an Israeli idea which was first proposed by (former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem) Begin," the former official maintained, adding that Jordan could not stop this option from taking root since the PLO, the representative of the Palestinian people, accepted it.

But he added: "We are talking about two different forces, with different uniforms and different commanders. The Palestinian police officers will not have the authority to halt Israeli forces."

According to an AFP toll, Israeli bullets have killed 1,113 Palestinians over the same period, which saw the resignation of all policemen who were Palestinians.

With Israel expecting the autonomy agreement to be signed in the next two weeks, Police Minister Moshe Shahal has sounded a warning.

"If you turn over control to them, then that's it. There is not much you can do," Mr. Shahal told reporters Wednesday.

"I will recommend that we have the maximum cooperation," between Israeli and Palestinian forces, he said, calling for joint patrols and liaison officers in police stations.

But he added: "We are talking about two different forces, with different uniforms and different commanders. The Palestinian police officers will not have the authority to halt Israeli forces."

Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahal has predicted "serious difficulties" ahead in the fight against "terrorism" once the accord comes into effect.

The autonomy accord makes only passing reference to the new force noting that the details still have to be settled by Israel and the PLO.

"The Palestinian side will commence in building the Palestinian police force, as agreed upon," the accord says.

"In order to guarantee public order and internal security for the Palestinians... the (autonomy) council will establish a strong police force while Israel will continue to carry responsibility for defending against external threats as well as the responsibility for overall security of Israel."

Palestinians from abroad (Egypt and Jordan), who want to join the force should already be trained police officers.

Netanyahu vows to press case against Gaza-Jericho

TEL AVIV (AP) — Benjamin Netanyahu, head of Israel's right-wing opposition, grabbed a piece of paper and sketched a large, amorphous swatch of territory inside Israel.

"It's like a fist aimed at the heart of Israel," said Mr. Netanyahu, explaining his opposition to handing the West Bank over to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which he predicts will happen as a result of the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy plan.

The plan, worked out in secret negotiations between Palestinians and Israeli diplomats in Norway, would start Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jenin.

Mr. Netanyahu, leaning back in his chair in an office at the Knesset (parliament), argued that Israelis are so divided there is only one solution: New elections.

"If (Prime Minister) Yitzhak Rabin had said he would negotiate with the PLO and install Yasser Arafat and his men in enclaves 15 minutes from Jerusalem and the suburbs of Tel Aviv he would not have been elected," Mr. Netanyahu said Thursday.

The man who would like to be Israel's next leader outlined Likud's vision: Annexing the 140 Israeli settlements in the West Bank, along with their 120,000 inhabitants, to Israel.

The plan, worked out in secret negotiations between the PLO and Israeli diplomats in Norway, would start Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jenin.

Instead, his strategy seemed to be slowing the implementation of the "Rabin-Arafat plan" with demonstrations, petitions, parliamentary action and other democratic forms of protest.

"The United States launched a dialogue with the PLO at the end of 1988 — after Chairman Yasser Arafat pledged publicly to recognise Israel and stop 'terrorism' — but cut it off in June 1990 to protest an attack on a Tel Aviv beach by a PLO faction.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher said earlier in the day that the administration's position on dialogue with the PLO had not changed. But, he added, "we'll be watching very carefully what the relationships are between Israel and the PLO."

In a Sept. 1, 1975 memorandum,